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## CHERRIES: Stanislas on target to sink Brentford

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# JWP ready to take on the world

## High-profile departures offer young midfielder chance to stake his claim

JAMES Ward-Prowse cannot wait to finally begin what he has described as the biggest season of his career.

The 19-year-old midfielder has risen through the youth ranks at Saints and now has more than 50 first team appearances to his name.

However, Ward-Prowse has yet to make the breakthrough from bit part player to an automatic member of boss Ronald Koeman's (right) first team line-up.

With all the summer departures at St Mary's Ward-Prowse is well aware what a big season this is for him and he is ready to seize his chance.

"The last two years have been really difficult in terms of starts," he said. "I

**Adam Leitch**

adam.leitch@dailyecho.co.uk

CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

ing and preparing and being fresher for games.

"Learning stuff on the pitch every day is massive and making sure I am physically right is massive."

"I have added a lot of experience to myself and I feel I am ready for hopefully 30-odd starts."

"People come and go and when those people go it could be your chance to step up and that may be the case this year. It's up to me to go out and prove it."

As if his task wasn't hard enough, Ward-Prowse would ideally like to stake a claim for a central midfield role.

It is arguably the most competitive area of the Saints squad, but the England under-21 star is aware of the size of the task facing him and is not fazed by it.

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"I have learned a lot about off the pitch stuff and looking after myself and recovering."



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# Saints Spotlight



**BIG YEAR:** James Ward-Prowse wants to take his chance in the Saints first team this season.

## Big year ahead for JWP

From front page

"That's the place I feel most comfortable at and that my attributes and my game are suited to that role," he admitted.

"Hopefully I can nail down a place there but you've got four or five quality players who can play that position as well."

"It's tough but it's football and this is the sort of business we are in and it's up to me to go and prove I should be playing."

Saints get their Premier League campaign underway against Liverpool at Anfield this weekend.

Despite losing manager Mauricio Pochettino and a host of first team stars during a remarkable summer, Ward-Prowse is looking forward to the challenge.

"It was a good place for us to go and we are going there with good memories and good feelings," he said, recalling last season's 1-0 Anfield victory.

"They have brought in a lot of new players as well so people could say it's the ideal time to play them but we just think about us and don't really think about the opposition."

"We need to make sure we are doing everything right and hopefully that will lead to us winning the game."

New manager Ronald Koeman has boosted his squad with a string of new arrivals. When asked who he has been most impressed with, Ward-Prowse picked out Dusan Tadic, the man brought in to replace Adam Lallana.

"I would say Dusan Tadic has proven to be a real threat going forward, he likes to take players on one-on-one, he's got a really good attitude and works hard and I'm sure he will be a player to look out for this season," reflected Ward-Prowse.

"I think he is the same sort of player in terms of trying to create chances and get crosses in and score goals."

"I think he will be an ideal replacement."

**RONALD KOEMAN HAS CONFIRMED** Saints do not plan to sign any more centre-backs following the arrival of Florin Gardos.

The Romanian international joined the club this week in a £6m deal from Steaua Bucharest, signing a four-year contract at St Mary's.

Despite that, Saints have continued to be linked with more defenders, including Aston Villa captain Ron Vlaar.

However, Koeman poured cold water on a potential reunion with the player he worked with at his previous club, Feyenoord.

"That's not true, because we signed Gardos, and that's it," he said.

"That rumour was when I was in the pre-season in Belgium and the journalist of the television of Holland asked me about the situation of Vlaar and of the World Cup, because I know the player."

"I had the player at Feyenoord and he is a great central defender."

"Of course, he was one of the names on our list but now we are happy to have Florin Gardos in and now nothing more to others, even Ron Vlaar."

Koeman believes Gardos is the right man to replace Dejan Lovren, who left for tomorrow's opponents, Liverpool, in a £20m deal earlier this summer, and he is confident the 25-year-old will be a strong and versatile addition at

**Gordon Simpson**

gordon.simpson@dailyecho.co.uk  
SPORTS REPORTER

the heart of defence.

"After Lovren left the club our focus was to bring in a central defender. Gardos can play on the left side of the central defender position, he can play on the right side of the central defender position," said Koeman.

"He's a strong defender and he was already on the list of the club and we are very happy to bring in Gardos."

A hamstring injury means that Gardos' debut will have to wait a few weeks yet, meaning a likely partnership of team captain Jose Fonte and Maya Yoshida in central defence tomorrow.

It is certainly a tough start for Saints, travelling to last season's runners-up in the Premier League.

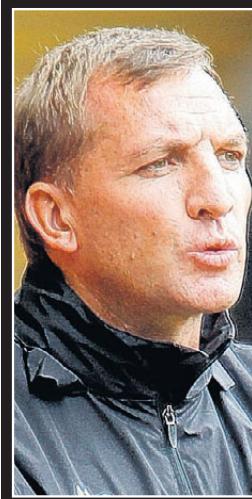
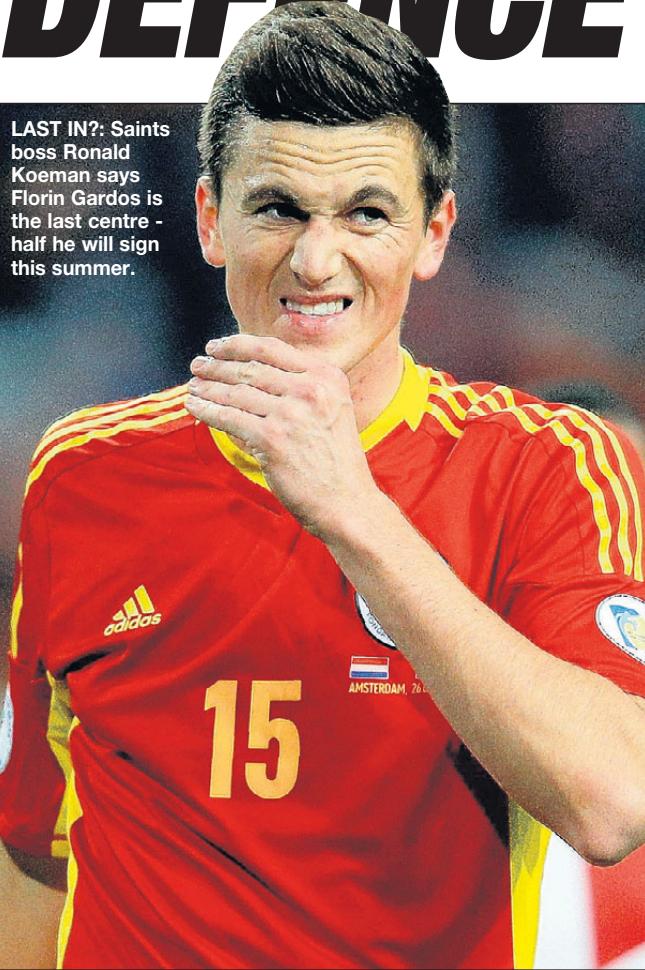
However, the club can take inspiration from memories of a 1-0 win there a year ago, while Koeman himself oversaw a 2-0 Champions League victory for Benfica at Anfield in 2006.

"We know it's a tough one, but everybody starts on nil, everybody is the first, and it's different," said the Saints boss.

"Everybody has to show their qualities and ambitions and I believe we are very well prepared."

"The players know what is winning at Anfield, I know as a manager what is winning at Anfield, and we are ready to play."

**LAST IN?** Saints boss Ronald Koeman says Florin Gardos is the last centre-half he will sign this summer.



BRENDAN RODGERS

## Rodgers: I want a trophy

LIVERPOOL may have been surprise title contenders last season but as the new campaign kicks off against Saints tomorrow manager Brendan Rodgers is targeting a trophy and a top-four finish.

The Reds were pipped by Manchester City in the final week of the campaign despite an extraordinary run, which saw them record their highest league finish since 2009.

Disappointment at missing out on a first championship for 24 years was only slightly tempered by a return to the Champions League but Rodgers knows if they are to maintain their progress they have to at least secure a long-term place among Europe's elite.

As a result he has tried to

lessen the expectations of another title challenge – at least until their primary aim is achieved.

Asked whether his side were contenders the Northern Irishman said: "Not according to the bookies we're not."

"I've seen some odds and I don't think we are even in the top four."

"I think people will look at Manchester City and Chelsea, with their squads."

"We probably arrived a year early to where we were but we will look to be up there challenging again this season."

"What happened last year counts for nothing, that's all gone now. The one thing that will carry on from that is the belief."

"Our aim is to be competi-

tive. Like the top teams, we want to win a trophy. That would be an aim. In the league, it's about sustaining Champions League football."

"For that you want to arrive in fourth. Once you have consolidated that, you can look beyond that. That's certainly our aim this season."

Last term Liverpool undoubtedly benefited from a poor season by Manchester United and a Chelsea side in transition after the arrival of Jose Mourinho for a second spell.

But with Louis van Gaal now at the helm at Old Trafford and Mourinho having spent nearly £80million on Diego Costa, Cesc Fabregas and Felipe Luis the competition will be much tougher with City and Arsenal

also investing heavily. Rodgers has invested the £75m from the sale of Luis Suarez to Barcelona on seven players and is still in the hunt for a striker to replace the 31-goal Uruguayan as he realises they cannot afford to give up their top-four spot it took so long to get back.

"It will be the same as last year - it was very competitive," he added ahead of the visit of Southampton.

"There are maybe seven teams challenging for those positions, but that's the beauty of this league."

"It's a fantastic league to operate in as a manager and a player."

"We'll be ready for the challenge, that's why we've tried to improve the squad again."

**REPORT FROM EASTLEIGH V GATESHEAD: SEE PAGE 5**

# Saints Spotlight



## Poch makes a winning start

**DEBUTANT** Eric Dier scored a dramatic injury-time winner to get ex-Saints boss Mauricio Pochettino's era at Tottenham off to a winning start against London rivals West Ham.

Both sides finished with 10 men but it was Spurs who came out on top as new defensive recruit Dier popped up on the edge of the Hammers' box in injury time to round Adrian and slip home a winning goal.

The visitors should have been behind at that stage but Mark Noble missed a first-half penalty for West Ham, with full-back Kyle Naughton sent off after handling in the box.

James Collins went the same way as Naughton in the second half as he picked up a second booking – with Tottenham only coming to life when the teams were level at 10-a-side. Sam Allardyce had the jinx over Spurs last season as he guided

the Hammers to three wins against their London rivals – and the 59-year-old will be left bemoaning his side's inability to hit the target despite enjoying periods of sustained possession earlier in the game.

Hugo Lloris made a superb save from Stewart Downing in the closing stages as both sides appeared destined to share the spoils before Dier, playing at right-back following Naughton's dismissal, stayed onside and latched onto Harry Kane's through ball to steer home a winner and give Pochettino a victorious start.

During the summer Allardyce had been tasked with bringing a more entertaining brand of football to Upton Park and, up against Pochettino's supposedly free-flowing Spurs side, his team started the brighter. Midway through the half Ricardo Vaz Te miscued when a

Collins flick-on found the Portuguese winger in plenty of space at the back post and shortly afterwards debutant Cheikhou Kouyate's diving header flew inches wide of Lloris' goal.

With just under half an hour on the clock the hosts were given the perfect opportunity to open the scoring when they were awarded a penalty for handball against Naughton.

The full-back was arguably unlucky to be sent off for the misdemeanour but Noble could only drag the resulting spot-kick wide, with Lloris diving the wrong way.

Tottenham came close to breaking the deadlock against the run of play as Lamela stole the ball off Noble and played in Aaron Lennon, who could only whip his shot over the bar. Collins picked up his second yellow card as he stopped Emmanuel Adebayor in his tracks with referee Chris Foy having a busy

first day of the new season.

Christian Eriksen may have fluffed his lines from the free-kick that followed but Spurs were soon in the ascendancy for the first time in the game.

Townsend forced Adrian into the best save of the match before seeing a similar effort deflected off target shortly afterwards.

It was Downing, though, who came close to winning it late on for West Ham. The England winger exchanged neat passes with Kevin Nolan on the edge of the Spurs box before forcing his way through on goal, with Lloris doing well to close in and block Downing's shot.

Adrian had to be lively at the opposing end to push out a long-range Nabil Bentaleb drive but the Spaniard could do nothing as Dier, a summer signing from Sporting Lisbon, kept his cool to send the travelling Spurs fans into delirium.



**POOR START:** Manchester United's (left to right) Darren Fletcher, Marouane Fellaini, Juan Mata and Wayne Rooney look dejected after Swansea City scored their second goal.

## Van Gaal's United off to a false start

**MANCHESTER** United began their season with a whimper as Gylfi Sigurdsson gate-crashed Louis van Gaal's Premier League bow at Old Trafford.

New United captain Wayne Rooney thought he had grabbed a point for the hosts with an over-head kick following Ki Sung-yueng's opener.

But Sigurdsson, making his second debut for the Swans, beat David De Gea from 15 yards to give Garry Monk's team a shock 2-1 win.

Van Gaal said going into the match he was not nervous about the task of bringing the glory days back to Old Trafford following last year's dismal showing under David Moyes.

But the Dutchman will surely have reservations about his squad's ability having seen what transpired during his first taste of Premier League action.

Moyes may have gone, but the same problems remain for United.

They lacked a cutting edge up front and their passing was sloppy at times.

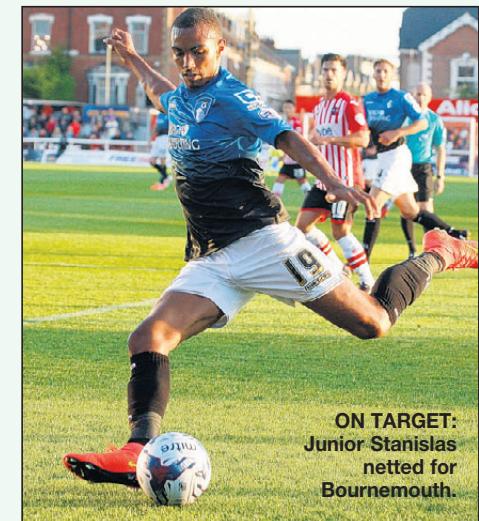
But the main concern for Van Gaal will be in defence. Both Sigurdsson and Ki

were unmarked when they beat De Gea.

There was a clear lack of organisation at times in defence, with Phil Jones and Chris Smalling both looking out of their comfort zone on several occasions thanks to Swansea's enterprising play and neat passing.

United were crying out for the experienced heads they lost this summer.

The defeat to Swansea, who are among the favourites to go down, suggests Van Gaal desperately needs defensive reinforcements, and the quicker he moves in the transfer market, the better.



**ON TARGET:** Junior Stanislas netted for Bournemouth.

## Junior takes the sting out of Bees

**JUNIOR** Stanislas marked his home debut with a goal after coming off the bench to earn Eddie Howe's Bournemouth a 1-0 victory over Brentford.

The former West Ham midfielder replaced Marc Pugh in the 66th minute and tapped in a delightful Ryan Fraser cross just six minutes later. And it proved to be the difference as the Cherries earned all three points and recorded their third clean sheet in succession.

Bournemouth scored after 26 seconds in their opening game victory at Huddersfield and they almost started in a similar manner, with influential midfielder Matt Ritchie trying his luck from all of 25 yards – but David Button was able to watch it sail safely over.

The frenetic pace continued at both ends with Andre Gray smashing the underside of Lee Camp's bar after six minutes following a neatly-worked set-piece involving Jake Bidwell.

Just a minute later the away side were again threatening to take full advantage of a free-kick as the Cherries were yet again punished for taking down Moses Odubajo. Another neatly worked set-piece from the away side saw Odubajo force Camp into a smart save, with the former Derby stopper getting down well.

Bournemouth almost punished the away side for not taking their flurry of chances via French striker Yann Kermorgant – but the number 18 saw his curling right-footed effort tipped round the post.

The second half at the Goldsands Stadium started much like the first with Bournemouth in the ascendancy within minutes of the restart.

Eddie Howe's men should have taken the lead through striker Callum Wilson, who found himself unmarked inside the box but was unable to get a clean strike on the ball with the wind playing its part – and the impressive Bidwell was able to clear the ball safely off the line.

The blustery conditions almost handed Brentford an unlikely lead with just over an hour on the clock as Tottenham loanee Alex Pritchard's long range free-kick was punched away by Camp.

Realising that Brentford were gaining the momentum manager Howe rang the changes, giving a home debut to Stanislas. And the manager's faith in his replacement was rewarded just six minutes left as the former West Ham midfielder tapped home fellow sub Fraser's dangerous cross.

Pritchard was at it again with moments on the clock as he forced Camp into yet another smart save but it just was not to be for the away side.

In fact it could have got a whole lot worse in injury time as Stanislas yet again threatened the away side's defence but a smart block from Craig denied the summer signing his second.

**TERRY PAINES EXCLUSIVE COLUMN: SEE PAGE 6**

# Non-league Action

## Late Larson leveller cruel on Baggies

SEBASTIAN Larsson tucked home a late equaliser as Sunderland snatched a 2-2 draw in their Barclays Premier League opener at West Brom.

The hosts had looked like making a winning start under new boss Alan Irvine after Saido Berahino struck twice following Lee Cattermole's superb fifth-minute goal at The Hawthorns.

Sunderland may feel justice was done after Berahino's first came from a controversial penalty on 42 minutes, but West Brom, after dominating play, will rue several wasted chances.

The match pitted together two sides looking to make a fresh start after narrowly avoiding relegation last season.

Irvine, who was paraded on the pitch to good applause prior to kick-off, fielded three of his eight new signings in former Sunderland

man Craig Gardner, Andre Wisdom and Sebastien Pocognoli.

Record £10million buy Brown Ideye, not yet deemed match-fit, was left on the bench.

Sunderland gave a start to their headline summer signing Jack Rodwell and also gave a debut to Patrick van Aanholt.

At first it seemed West Brom had settled the better, enjoying some good early possession, but it was Sunderland who showed the first flash of brilliance through Cattermole.

The midfielder collected the ball 25 yards out from Jonas Olsson's headed clearance, steadied himself and unleashed a powerful shot into the top corner which Ben Foster could only get fingertips to.

West brom were level when, after Victor Anichebe appeared to go down at the slightest hint of a shirt-pull from Roberge, Berahino made no mistake with a well-taken spot-kick.

Baggies claimed the lead after 74 minutes. Mannone saved well from Graham Dorrans' long-range strike, but the ball stayed in play and Gardner was the quickest to react, quickly whipping in high cross to the far post.

Sunderland were still back-tracking and Berahino got ahead of Van Aanholt to tap home his second, to the clear frustration of Mannone, who looked angry with the defence.

Yet the visitors were not done and produced a move almost out of keeping with much of their earlier play five minutes from time.

Jordi Gomez found Van Aanholt down the left and his cut-back was deftly diverted past Foster by Larsson from six yards out.



SEBASTIAN LARSSON

**EASTLEIGH** drew 2-2 with Gateshead in a highly open and entertaining game in Vanarama Conference Premier at Silverlake Stadium today, writes Peter Howard.

An own goal by captain Dean Beckwith saw the Spittfires concede their first goal of the season before Ben Strevens netted and Jack Midson scored his first goal for the club since arriving in the summer to give the home side the lead at half-time.

Alex Rodman's 55 minute goal at the back-post saw the two unbeaten and hotly tipped sides take an equal share of the spoils.

Manager Richard Hill made two changes to his line-up. Yemi Odubade, who caused havoc in the 1-0 win against Aldershot on Thursday, dropped to the bench with Stuart Fleetwood reinstated to the starting XI. Jamie Collins came into the midfield with Will Evans a substitute.

After missing the Shots match Craig Stanley was once again sidelined with a heel injury sustained on the opening day against Nuneaton Town.

It was an absolutely breathless opening 15 minutes and the game in general was far more open than the 1-0 victory over Shots.

The end-to-end action saw James Constable – searching for his first Spittfires goal – work keeper Adam Bartlett as he drove a low shot bottom right.

And another chance for the home side saw a dangerous Michael Green corner evade the Heed defence and find centre half Paul Reid. He fired his close-range volley way over the bar.

Jai Reason and Strevens linked up cleverly as he flicked superbly into the box with the Strevens' shot blocked in the box.

### ATTACK

Gateshead were also effective on the attack. Alex Rodman linked well with Jamie Chandler who was able to shoot – Ross Flitney held the low shot well.

And it didn't stop there as the Tyneiders broke from an Eastleigh attack. Chandler leaped highest for a cross, planting a header narrowly over the bar.

Then came the all-important goal. On 20 minutes Gateshead broke the Eastleigh defence for the first time this season. And indeed, an opposition player is still yet to breach it because Spittfires captain Beckwith was the scorer.

A cross by Maddison on the right

wing saw the centre back – under pressure from Chandler – flick a header backwards towards Flitney. Presumably he envisaged the stopper being able to collect with ease and, probably, the header having less power.

But unfortunately for the Spittfires captain, the ball looped over the former Gillingham custodian and into the net.

Gateshead continued to be dangerous and had a penalty shout turned down when Dan Spence downed Rodman in the box.

But just as the Tyne and Wear side looked to be in the ascendancy, Eastleigh levelled. Reason and Strevens were on the same wave-



ON TARGET: Jack Midson celebrates with Ben Strevens after netting against Gateshead today. Pic by Paul Collins.

# Eastleigh are held at home

length again. The move clearly coming off the training ground as the 24-year-old attacker chipped the ball into the box from a free-kick.

Strevens climbed highest as he flicked his header over Bartlett and into the top right of the net to make it 1-1.

And the lead was Eastleigh's just two minutes later.

Jack Midson headed home at the back post from Green's corner – his first goal after moving from AFC Wimbledon in the summer.

After the restart Eastleigh looked increasingly confident. Midson, Reason and Constable linking up well.

However, that positivity was

undone on 55 minutes when Gateshead equalised.

This time, Maddison swung in a cross that went across the face of goal – Flitney not able to reach it – and waiting at the back post was Rodman, who had the relatively simple job of knocking home with the right side of the goal left unattended by Eastleigh.

Just past the hour mark Hill drafted in his assistant manager/ striker Craig McAllister, who came on for Midson, and soon after brought off Beckwith – who'd picked up a knock – for Evans.

Goal hero from Thursday night, Ben Wright, was introduced by Hill for Jamie Collins with 18 minutes

left as Eastleigh went looking for another dramatic late winner.

That change meant Spittfires had a very attacking look with McAllister, Constable and Reason also on the pitch.

Gateshead also remained hungry for the winner.

Maddison looked especially dangerous after having a couple of shots saved by Flitney from the edge of the box.

With five minutes left Eastleigh were down to ten men. Green was dismissed after a he heavily tackled Gateshead goal-scorer Rodman.

After that the away-side looked to take advantage but the Spittfires remained resolute in defence.

## Non-league Action

# Youthful Town's FA Cup dream is over

**Simon Walter**

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

**CRICKET REPORTER**

**ROMSEY** Town's dream of progressing from the FA Cup's Extra Preliminary Round under the competition's youngest-ever manager was ended by Fareham Town.

The Wessex Premier side came from behind to win 3-1 at the Bypass Ground with three goals in the last 20 minutes.

Sam Muzinga gave Romsey an early lead when he sidefooted in Josh Ramsey's cross from the right following good work from Pedro Carvalho, their impressive No. 10.

It looked like it might be their day when Fareham missed a first-half penalty after Romsey captain Ben Andrews was penalised for diving in on Brady Norton.

Centre-half Ryan Woodford stepped up to take the spot-kick but

struck the outside of the right-hand upright, before heading over the bar when he tried to make amends from a corner shortly afterwards.

Romsey boss Phillips, pictured above, saw his side nearly double their lead just before half-time when Muzinga's header put Carvalho through.

Carvalho, a former Plymouth Argyle youth team player, fired a blistering strike that was palmed away from the top left corner and behind for a corner.

While the first half belonged to Romsey, Fareham playmaker Norton provided a warning of what was to come when he headed over the bar just before the break.

Fareham dominated the second half and fully deserved their equaliser when it eventually came in the 73rd minute.

They had an effort cleared off the line shortly after the interval and Mark Wheeler headed wide and had a shot saved by a diving George Passingham. Liam Robinson also drove an effort off target and livewire Norton screwed a shot across the face of goal and beyond the far post.

But a minute later they levelled when Wheeler's pass from the right was slotted in by Jordan



ON THE BALL: Action from Romsey Town's FA Cup clash with Fareham.

Pic by Habil Rahman

Neal. It was the first of two goals in five minutes that settled this encounter.

After providing the pass from which Robinson put wide at the near post, Norton produced the game's one moment of real quality.

Romsey defender Josh Carey was booked for the foul which gave Norton the chance to put Fareham in front from a direct free-kick.

No-one really expected him to score, 25 yards out of the left side of the penalty area. But he gave Passingham no chance with a stunning curler whipped across the face of goal with enough bend to find its way into the top right corner.

The celebrations were unrestrained in front of the away dug out. Carvalho had a shot saved from point-blank range and substitute Matt Hardy was denied by

brave Fareham defender as Romsey pressed for an equaliser.

But Fareham's place in the hat was assured when Robinson beat two defenders before slotting his side's third into the far corner three minutes from time.

Romsey manager James Phillips, 22, said: "Fareham showed why they play a league higher, their experience showed in the second half."

## No winning return for Redknapp

QPR'S return to the Barclays Premier League began in defeat as James Chester's second-half header gave Hull a 1-0 victory on the opening day of the new season.

Rangers were handed a golden opportunity to salvage a draw in the 84th minute when referee Craig Pawson awarded the hosts a penalty but Charlie Austin's effort was saved by Allan McGregor.

Former Saints boss Harry Redknapp's side enjoyed the majority of possession during the contest but Rangers were ultimately made to pay the price for a lack of cutting edge in the final third.

Instead, it was Chester who made the decisive contribution as he shook off Rio Ferdinand to head home a corner early in the second half and earn the Tigers their first win at Loftus Road since 1963.

Loic Remy, who could have been wearing the red of Liverpool had he not failed a medical earlier this summer, was certainly the home side's greatest threat but Hull's well-organised defensive trio did just enough to keep the Frenchman at bay.

Remy, who was lacklustre early on, grew into the game and earned a free-kick on the edge of the area which Joey Barton clipped into the side-netting, and moments later Remy again broke free to find Mutch, who headed narrowly wide.

QPR continued to look the more likely scorers and almost broke the deadlock before half-time as Steven Caulker rose highest to a corner, but his header was cleared off the line by Andrew Robertson.

But it was Hull who grabbed the opener in the 52nd minute when Chester out-muscled Ferdinand at a corner and headed home Hull's first goal of the season.

Rangers responded positively to going behind but, for all their possession and forward-running, were unable to carve out a decisive chance.

Instead, it was the visitors who should have doubled their lead when Tom Ince was put through on the counter-attack, but the 22-year-old's tame finish was blocked by the legs of Rob Green.

Redknapp, pictured above, threw on Junior Hoilett, Bobby Zamora and Matt Phillips in the latter stages in search of an equaliser, and it was Hoilett who earned his side a spot-kick when his cross was adjudged to have struck the hand of Chester six minutes from time.

Austin stepped up and fired low to McGregor's right but the Hull stopper read the shot and palmed the ball away.

Zamora and Remy both had chances to equalise in the dying moments but the former took too long and the latter was denied by McGregor as Hull held on for all three points.



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# Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football

**IN THE** last few years Manchester United have been in a state of steady decline.

The true extent of the decline though, wasn't evident until last season, when David Moyes came to the helm, and steered the club to a disastrously low league finish of seventh.

It is a testament to Sir Alex Ferguson's great management skills that United could win the Premier League title two years back, with a squad predominantly made up of deadwood.

When the same task fell to Moyes (pictured right), he failed miserably.

While he may be a good manager in his own right, he didn't have the necessary experience to manage a team as historically successful and dominating as United.

Neither could Moyes inspire his impotent, ineffective squad of players to glory, nor could he bring in the necessary reinforcements to galvanise the team.

His reputation, or lack of it, was what caused so many top class players to reject United's advances, and at the end of the day, he simply wasn't good enough.

One of the few points on which Sir Alex has been criticised, was the lack of quality in United's midfield since Paul Scholes chose to retire.

A satisfactory replacement for the red-headed Englishman was never located under Sir Alex, and Moyes' team was hit extremely hard by the absence of high-calibre midfielders.

Under Louis van Gaal, the new man at the helm of United, signings have already been made to strengthen the squad, and Ander Herrera, a 24-year-old Spanish central midfielder, is one of them.

In Herrera (pictured left), United have bought a wonderfully nimble, tactically efficient, technically excellent, defensively reliable and gifted attacking player.

United confirmed Herrera's signing in June, and he played a big part in their recent International

Champions Cup success.

Playing attractive football, he was spraying passes all around the pitch with unnerving accuracy, and he displayed a wonderful eye for picking up his teammates' runs, and was involved in a number of assists over his first few matches.

He seems to be exactly what United have been missing, with his passing ability and defensive contribution integral to the way United played in the friendlies.

He was utilised as an attacking central midfielder by Athletic Club last season, often playing 'in the hole', but is more naturally suited to playing as a central midfielder.

He has also played on the right wing, showing admirable versatility.

Herrera's playing style is very similar to the way United icon Scholes used to play.

His dribbling skills are developed, and he enjoys taking shots from distance.

His slight physique, and his lightning-quick feet make him difficult to defend



# HAVE UNITED FOUND THE NEW SCHOLES?



**RELIABLE:** Manchester United's Ander Herrera in action for his new club.

against, and he has the habit of ending up at the edge of the penalty box, at the right time, to put the ball into the net.

A creative force last season, he bagged five assists, and created 48 chances.

One would imagine that, playing with strikers as good as Wayne Rooney and Robin van Persie, the chances he creates will be taken more often.

He is excellent behind a dead ball, and delivering pinpoint free-kicks became the norm for him in Bilbao last season.

The Spaniard's quick feet drew an average of 2.6 fouls per game last year, and provided 1.2 successful dribbles every 90 minutes.

His penchant for attack is obvious, as he took an average of more than two shots every game. He scored a total of five goals,

over 33 games.

His importance to the squad isn't just in the attacking sense, as he made 67 defensive actions to bolster his side's defensive solidity.

He made an average of 3.1 tackles per game, and made at least one interception as well. He likes to tackle, and often does so efficiently.

He is also very consistent, and was a shining light throughout Athletic Club's campaign last year.

A huge squad makeover is still due, with Van Gaal on the lookout for more quality signings, but, in Herrera, United have gone a long way already in improving their engine room.

With concerns still abundant over their defence in the Dutch manager's newly-adopted formation, United fans can take

some solace in the fact their midfield is looking slightly stronger than it has for the past six years.

Herrera's capabilities as a midfielder will be integral to United's chances of success, and his track record promises a lot.

If paired with a slightly more experienced, and defensively-minded player, such as the much-touted arrival of Arturo Vidal or a fit and in form Michael Carrick, Herrera can spark good football from the team.

Herrera has the talent, work-rate and creativity to become a United icon, and fans across the globe will be looking to him to inspire his team-mates with his undoubtedly dazzling football talent, and revitalise the team's playing style as a whole.

As of this moment, it seems like Herrera has a long, bright, fruitful United future ahead of him.

# Non-league Football



# JAMIE WAITS ON FUTURE

**UNCERTAIN:**  
Jamie Brown  
tussles with Jai  
Reason in an  
Eastleigh v  
Gosport Borough  
match.

**EX-EASTLEIGH midfieler Jamie Brown is facing an uncertain future as he awaits new on whether his appeal against the termination of his Gosport Borough contract is successful.**

Brown was at the centre of controversy on social media after posting pictures on Twitter of the Borough players supposedly sleeping rough after being left without accommodation during a pre-season trip to Guernsey, writes Peter Howard

The 33-year-old led the Privett Park outfit out at Wembley as captain in their FA Trophy final defeat, but has since fallen from grace.

The main reason for his sacking is an alleged verbal confrontation with chairman Mark Hook.

Despite the turbulence in the background, Alex Pike's side won 1-0 in their Vanarama Conference South opener at Chelmsford.



Pike said: "As a manager and as a club, you don't want to have the week that we've just had with Jamie.

"But it proves what a great team spirit we have.

"They put it behind them and it was a complete and utter battle at Chelmsford, especially when we went down to 10 men for

the last 10 minutes. "I'm just proud to be their manager."

Sholing's FA Vase hero Mike Carter made his competitive debut for Borough along with four other summer recruits, Matt Paterson, Steve Ramsey and Ben Gerrings.

It seems Brown may not pull on a Borough strip again

with the conclusion of the appeal unknown.

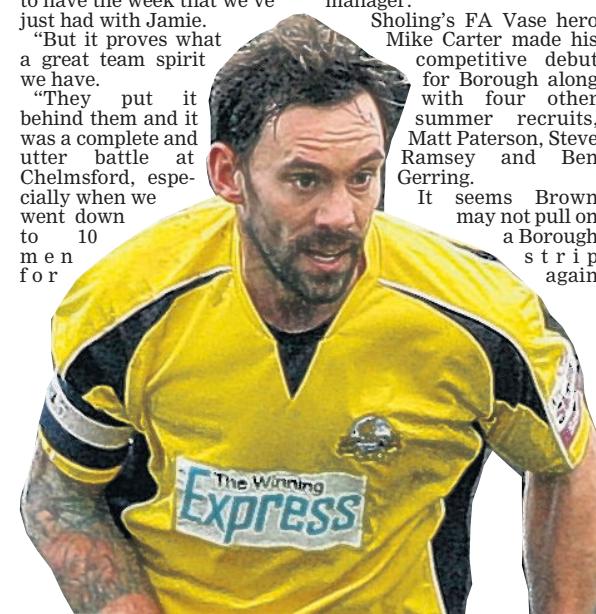
After the Twitter outburst, Gosport released an extraordinary statement denying that their players were forced to sleep rough.

Brown posted several pictures with a seemingly jokey comment: "Just to highlight wot Gosport think of their players!"

That light-heartedness was lost on the Conference South club and they reacted with a strong statement of their stance on the issue.

In a lengthy statement, the opening paragraph said: "Firstly, GBFC wishes to make it very clear that it takes its duty of care to its players very seriously and never has/never will neglect that duty. It also wishes to make absolutely clear that it affords all players the greatest of respect."

When contacted by the Sports Pink, Jamie Brown said he would not be making any comment until his appeal has taken place.



## Non-league News

### 6-1 defeat 'a harsh lesson' for Petersfield

**PETERSFIELD** Town manager Ian Saunders is hoping the 6-1 Sydenhams Premier Division thrashing at the hands of Folland Sports will have taught his side "a harsh lesson".

Danny Bowers' side were rampant in the second half and after Ashley Jarvis's equaliser on the brink of half time following the Wessex Premier new-boy's opener through Robert Tambling.

"I wasn't prepared for what happened in the second half," said Town boss Ian Saunders.

"Once we fell behind heads dropped and we crumbled.

"It was like watching men against boys and hopefully has taught us a harsh lesson.

"At this level if you make fundamental mistakes you will get punished."

Tambling took his goal well after being put through by new-boy Danny Thompson but after that it was all downhill for the home side.

Meanwhile, Planemakers' boss Bowers hailed his side's "killer instinct" after the second-half demolition.

Five goals after the restart saw the tally their first points of the season, following a disappointing 3-2 defeat to Andover Town in their first match.

Michael Turvey notched a brace, Jamie Barron and Pat Nolan netted a goal apiece and substitute Richard Gregory scored the sixth after Jarvis opened the Hamble-based side's account on the stroke of half-time.

"When we went 1-0 down, I was thinking here we go again," said Bowers.

"But credit to the lads, they were outstanding in the second half.

"Kneller was excellent in goal; his communication to the defence is brilliant.

"We had that killer instinct and I'm pleased to have got some points.

"We want to be up there with Blackfield & Langley, Winchester and Newport, so we were eager to get some points."

## Family business at Moneyfields

IT'S a family business at Sydenhams Premier Division side Moneyfields at the moment.

Miles Rutherford's son Alfie has now netted three goals in three games.

His exploits included a double from the bench in the 5-2 win over Totton & Eling.

"I know he is my son but he came off the bench and livened things up," said Rutherford senior.

"His is a raw talent but it is good to see.

"He has a little bit of pace about him and he made a difference."

Money have now scored ten goals in two games in the Wessex, after the Totton thrashing and beating AFC Portchester away 5-0.

Despite getting three the manager's son isn't the top-scorer at the Portsmouth club. Steve Hutchings has scored an incredible five goals in the league, while Douglas Rowe had also netted twice.

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# Non-league Football

## Non-league News

### Totton 'spoilt' over attackers

AFC Totton manager Chris Ferrett admits they are spoilt for choice in attacking positions this season.

The Stags have won their opening two games away at Clevedon Town 2-0 and Wantage Town 2-1 the Southern League South & West Division One.

And it has seen new signing from Blackfield & Langley Craig Feeney hit the ground running with two goals in two games.

That has forced Ferrett to conclude that they have several good options to choose from.

Zac Moulard returned to the squad after a holiday at the Wantage game, while Nathaniel Sherborne started up top with Feeney.

Fellow attacking option Taylor Edwards was on the bench.

"We have plenty of competition for places," said Ferrett.

"It's a good situation to be in.

"Craig has been great so far and could have had a few more against Wantage - we struck the bar three times.

"I'm happy we've got good options."

Basingstoke born Sherborne, was been at the club since 2007 and famously scored the Stags' goal against Bristol Rovers in the FA Cup match live on ITV in 2011.

His playing was severely restricted after a serious injury meant he played no part in the 2012/13 season and then again at the beginning of last term.

Following rehabilitation he has now started the opening two matches in the South & West.

Meanwhile, youth product Moulard will be competing to get in the team after impressing in his first season with the senior team last term. Edwards was another academy graduate and made his name with a stunning strike against Stourbridge last term.

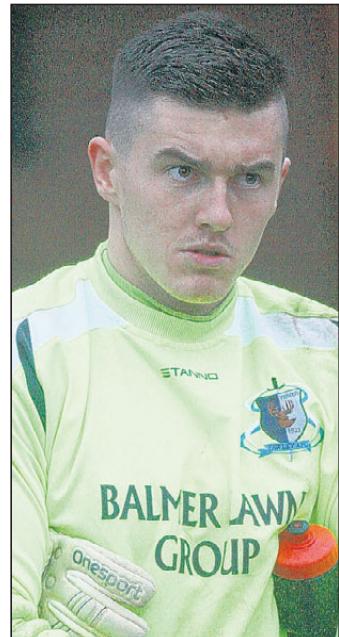
And Feeney, the most recent addition to Riley's team, was brought from the Watersiders. After scoring a lot of goals from midfield last term, he's now been given an opportunity to shine in his favoured forward position.

**ROMSEY Town head coach James Phillips admits his side "still have lots to learn" as they got their Sydenhams Division One campaign under way, writes Oliver Harvey**

The Bypass Ground side were beaten 4-2 by New Milton and, after taking charge of his inaugural first-team match, he's expecting a learning curve this campaign.

"We still have lots to learn," he said.

"It's difficult to say where we will finish because everybody is still getting to know the division still."



**KEEPER:** George Passingham.

**Sunday, August 17**  
**BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE**  
Liverpool v Southampton (1.30pm), Newcastle v Man City (4pm).

**VANARAMA CONFERENCE**  
Premier: AFC Telford v Aldershot.

**Monday, August 18**  
**BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE**  
Burnley v Chelsea (8pm)

**Tuesday, August 19**  
**UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**  
Play-Off First Leg: Besiktas v Arsenal, FC Copenhagen v Bayer Leverkusen, Napoli v Athletic Bilbao, SV Red Bull Salzburg v Malmo FF, Steaua Bucuresti v Ludogorets.

**SKY BET LEAGUE**  
Championship: Birmingham v Ipswich, Blackpool v Brentford, Bolton v Middlesbrough, Bournemouth v Nottm Forest, Cardiff v Wigan, Charlton v Derby.

**VANARAMA FOOTBALL CONFERENCE**  
South: Gosport Borough v Maidenhead Utd.

Leeds v Brighton, Norwich v Blackburn, Reading v Huddersfield, Rotherham v Watford, Sheff Wed v Millwall.  
**League 1:** Bristol City v Leyton Orient, Chesterfield v Milton Keynes Dons, Coventry v Barnsley, Crawley Town v Bradford, Crewe v Rochdale, Doncaster v Preston, Gillingham v Swindon, Notts County v Colchester, Oldham v Port Vale, Peterborough v Sheff Utd, Scunthorpe v Fleetwood Town, Walsall v Yeovil.  
**League 2:** Burton Albion v Exeter, Cheltenham v Carlisle, Hartlepools v Dag & Red, Luton v Bury, Mansfield v Newport County, Morecambe v Oxford Utd, Plymouth v Stevenage, Portsmouth v Northampton, Shrewsbury v Accrington Stanley, Southend v AFC Wimbledon, Wycombe v Tranmere, York v Cambridge Utd.  
**SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE**  
Premier Division:  
AFC Portchester v Horndean, Blackfield & Langley v Bemerton Heath, Harlequins, Bournemouth v Brockenhurst, Fareham Town v Totton & Eling, Folland Sport v Alresford Town, Totton & Eling, Folland Sport v Alresford Town.

Harmworth United v Lymington Town, Newport v Fawley, Winchester City v Christchurch.

**PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE**

**Senior Division:**

AFC Stoneham v Colden Common, Fleetlands v Locks Heath, Headley Utd v Clanfield, Hedge End Rangers v Hamble Club, Liphook Utd v Liss Athletic, Otterbourne v Winchester Castle, Paulsgrove v Baffins Milton Rovers, QK Southampton v Bush Hill, Stockbridge Utd v Overton Utd.

**Wednesday, August 20**

**UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

Play-Off First Leg: AaB v Apoel Nicosia, Lille v FC Porto, Maribor v Celtic, Slovan Bratislava v BATE, Standard Liege v Zenit St Petersburg.

**SKY BET LEAGUE**

Championship: Fulham v Wolverhampton

**SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE**  
Premier Division: Cambridge City v Chesham United, Corby Town v Arlesey Town, Frome Town v Burnham.

**Division One South & West:** North Leigh v Wantage Town.

**SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE**

**Premier Division:** Verwood Town v Andover Town, Whitchurch Utd v Petersfield Town.

**PUMA ENGINEERING HPL**

**Combination:** Fleetlands v Paulsgrove, Hamble Club v Hedge End Rangers, Headley Utd v Liphook Utd, Overton Utd v Winchester Castle.

**Thursday, August 21**

**UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE**

Play-Off Round - First Leg: AEL v Tottenham Hotspur, Aktobe v Legia Warsaw, Apollon Limassol v Lokomotiv Moscow, Astana v Villarreal, Asteras Tripoli v Maccabi Tel-Aviv, Dinamo Minsk v Nacional, Dinamo Moscow v Omonia

Nicosia, Dnipro v Hajduk Split, FC Spartak Trnava v FC Zurich, FC Zimbru v PAOK Salonika, FK Karabakh v FC Twente, FK Sarajevo v Borussia M'gladbach, Grasshoppers v Club Brugge, HJK Helsinki v Rapid Vienna, IF Elfsborg v Rio Ave, Lyon v FC Astra Giurgiu, Neftchi v Partizan Belgrade, PEC Zwolle v Sparta Prague, PSV v Shakhtar, Panathinaikos v FC Midtjylland, Petrolul Ploiesti v Dinamo Zagreb, RNK Split v Torino, Real Sociedad v Krasnodar, Rijeka v FC Sheriff, Ruch Chorzow v FC Metalist Kharkiv, Stjarnan Inter Milan, Trabzonspor v Rostov, Young Boys v Debrezen, FC Zarya v Lugansk.

**PUMA ENGINEERING HPL**

**Combination:** AFC Stoneham v Otterbourne, Clanfield v Liss Athletic, QK Southampton v Michaelmarsh & Timsbury.

**Friday 22nd August**



# 'WE'VE STILL GOT A LOT TO LEARN'

Following relegation from the Wessex Premier last term, Phillips completed a summer overhaul of the squad and the young coach has stated a top half finish is on the cards.

As the 22-year-old continues to shape his squad following the disappointments of last season, there is optimism and the newly-appointed boss has asked for time to allow his team to gel.

More than 40 players were signed to Romsey during pre-season, and while that has now been reduced to 35, Phillips insists he is still looking for a few key players.

Phillips said: "When you come down you need to rebuild, and it takes time to settle and understand the league.

"It just goes to show the strength of the league and we did well to get two goals away from home.

"It was disappointing to lead and

then throw it away in the last ten minutes against New Milton.

"The team are gelling well though. We are still getting used to one another but if we had played that game in a few months time, we wouldn't have lost."

Phillips was also full of praise for his stand-in goalkeeper George Passingham.

"George played really well and made some outstanding saves. He's commanding, and adds experience of this level to the backline. He offers superb competition."

Indeed with a squad the size of Romsey's, there is plenty of competition. Passingham was drafted into the squad following an injury to first-choice custodian, Gareth Schultze.

Passingham will now look to make the first-choice berth his own, as he is one of five 'keepers on the Town's books.



**BOSS:** James Phillips.



**GELLING TOGETHER:**  
Romsey Town.

# Non-league Football



# VASE STARS SAY FAREWELL

**SHOLING'S** departed FA Vase heroes Lee Wort and midfielder Mike Carter returned to the Silverlake Arena for one final hurrah after making their moves to Vanarama Conference South side Gosport Borough.

After coming through the Boatmen youth sides and becoming the star striker – scoring more than 50 goals – as Sholing won the FA Vase and Sydenhams Premier Division last term, Wort finally moved as he chases his dream of playing football league – joining Carter who moved earlier in the summer.

The 22-year-old had a two-week trial at League Two side Accrington Stanley with ex-Saints frontman and Accies manager James Beattie.

But after a fortnight at the Crown Ground, Wort was unable to a secure permanent move.

That paved the way for Alex Pike's side to snap him up on a year's deal last weekend.

And despite his switch away from Portsmouth Road, he returned to say goodbye to fans at Sholing's opening home game in the Southern League South & West Division One against North Leigh.

The 1-1 draw saw Dan Mason level in the 92nd minute after the Oxfordshire side took the lead in the first half through Elliott Osbourne-Ricketts.

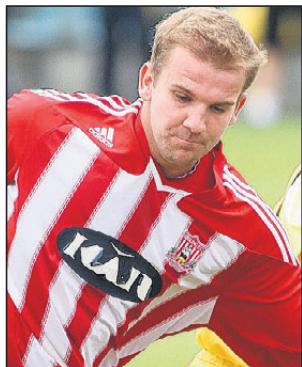
Wort watched on and admitted that he'll always have an affinity with the Boatmen.

"I will always have the connection with Sholing," said Wort.

"I was looking forward to saying thank you on Wednesday."

"I will always have mates at Sholing and my younger brother Ryan is there, so my connection is still strong."

On the subject of his Borough move, he said: "I knew Gosport were interested when I was in Accrington



and I made the journey back immediately to have talks.

"I can't wait to get started. I've never played at this level before and it's the perfect new challenge for me.

"I still have hopes of playing in the Football League and I've just got to keep working hard."

Stanley manager Beattie has promised to keep monitoring Wort's progress.

"Beattie told me that they weren't in a position to offer me a contract," Wort said.

"He said he knew I hadn't been coached at a higher level."

"The whole experience has made me hungrier."

"It was brilliant experience and I hope to be back at that level at some point."

Sholing look to be slightly short on goals at present after the 1-1 draw then 0-0 at Shortwood United in the South & West game last Saturday.

Shortwood United in the South & West game last Saturday.

LAST HURRAH: Lee Wort (above) and Mike Carter (inset left) returned to say goodbye to fans.

## VANARAMA FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Premier: Aldershot Town v Forest Green Rovers.

## SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Christchurch v Lympington Town, Fawley v Brockenhurst.

## Saturday, August 23

## BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa v Newcastle, Chelsea v Leicester, Crystal Palace v West Ham, Everton v Arsenal, Southampton v West Brom, Swansea v Burnley.

## SKY BET LEAGUE

Championship: Blackburn v Bournemouth, Bradford v Birmingham, Brighton v Bolton, Derby v Fulham, Huddersfield v Charlton, Ipswich v Norwich, Middlesbrough v Sheffield Wed, Millwall v Rotherham, Nottm Forest v Reading, Watford v Leeds, Wigan v Blackpool, Wolverhampton v Cardiff.

## League 1: Barnsley v Gillingham, Bradford v Peterborough, Colchester v

Dover, Fleetwood Town v

Chesterfield, Leyton Orient v Walsall, Milton Keynes Dons v Coventry, Port Vale v Notts County, Preston v Oldham, Rochdale v Bristol City, Sheff Utd v Crawley Town, Swindon v Crewe, Yeovil v Scunthorpe.

## League 2: AFC Wimborne v Hartlepools, Accrington Stanley v Luton, Bury v

Plymouth, Cambridge Utd v Morecambe, Carlisle v Southend, Dags & Red v

Mansfield, Exeter v York, Newport County v Burton Albion, Northampton v

## VANARAMA FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Premier: Alfreton Town v Wrexham, Bristol Rovers v AFC Telford Utd, Chester FC v FC

Halfax Town, Darford v Torquay Utd, Dover

Athletic v Eastleigh, Gateshead FC v Grimsby

Town, Lincoln City v Braintree Town,

## SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Andover Town v Newport, Blackfield & Langley v Fareham Town,

Hamworthy United v Alresford Town,

## SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Premier Division: Arlesley Town v Hereford United, Banbury

United v Bideford, Biggleswade Town v

## Cambridge City, Paulton Rovers v Slough

Town, Redditch United v Frome Town, Truro

City v St Neots Town, Weymouth v Hitchin

## Division One South & West:

Bridgwater Town v Shortwood United, Cinderford Town v

Wimborne Town, Clevedon Town v

Mangotsfield United, Evesham United v AFC

Totton, Fleet Town v North Leigh, Merthyr

Town v Didcot Town, Sholing v Yeate Town,

Stratford Town v Larkhall Athletic, Swindon

Supermarine v Taunton Town, Tiverton Town v

Weston-Super-Mare v Gosport Borough,

Whitehawk v Ebbsfleet Utd.

## SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Andover Town v Newport, Blackfield & Langley v Fareham Town,

Hamworthy United v Alresford Town,

Hordean v Whitchurch United, Moneyfields v

Bemerton Heath Harlequins, Petersfield Town v

Bournemouth, Totton & Eling AFC

Portchester, Venwood Town v Folland Sports,

Division One: Cowes Sports v Pewsey Vale,

Downton v Ringwood Town, Fleet

Spurs v East Cowes Victoria, Laverstock & Ford v

Hythe & Dibden, New Milton Town v

Amesbury Town, Romsey Town v United

Services Portsmouth,

Team Solent v Tedley Calleva.

## PUMA ENGINEERING HPL

Senior Division: Bush Hill v Liss Athletic,

Clarendon v Stockbridge, Fleetlands v AFC

Stoneham, Hamble Club v Liphook Utd,

Headley Utd v Colden Common, Hedge End

Rangers v Locks Heath, Paulsgrove v

Otterbourne, QK Southampton v Baffins

Milton Rovers.

## Division One:

AFC Petersfield v Netley Central Sports, Cadnam Utd v Michelmersh &

Timbsbury, Four Marks v Broughton,

Lyndhurst v Andover Lions, Upham v Infinity.

## Combination:

AFC Stoneham v Hedge End Rangers, Liphook Utd v Hamble Club, Liss

Athletic v QK Southampton, Otterbourne v

Paulsgrove, Winchester Castle v Fleetlands.

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**Non-league News**



**Killick to switch focus of search**

AFTER missing out on Gosport Borough's new frontman Lee Wort, Poole Town manager Tom Killick could ditch his quest for a traditional striker and concentrate on boosting the Dolphins' firepower from other areas.

The 22-year-old long-time Poole target joined the Conference South side after nothing came of his Accrington Stanley trial.

It was another setback for Killick, whose seven-day approach for Weymouth striker Conor Jevon could also come to nothing following tentative discussions with the youngster.

But having been impressed by Cherries loanee Josh O'Hanlon's (pictured below) debut at Banbury United on Saturday, the Poole boss may now look to add goals from support roles rather than disrupt the shape of his side.

Killick told the Pink's sister paper the Bournemouth Daily Echo: "Josh was exceptional on Saturday and if I bring in another target man I would have to change the way we play. We might look at something a bit different."

On the failed bid for Wort, Killick added: "Lee has ambitions to play as high as possible and none of the conversations I had with him were about money."

"He just felt playing at a higher level with Gosport would be more beneficial to him and I totally respect that."



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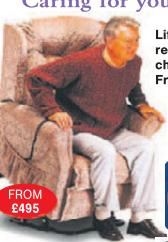
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# Adam Rant



This week's big talking points  
with **Adam Leitch**

## Chelsea are the Rant title pick

IT will be an intriguing battle at the top of the table again this season.

Not intriguing enough that anybody other than the closed shop of clubs who normally contend for the title will make an impact, but interesting nonetheless.

Adam Rant's money is on Chelsea to pick up the Premier League trophy this season.

Jose Mourinho has been a more subdued presence during his second incarnation at Stamford Bridge, but is a master of tactics and putting a team together.

He inherited an ageing Chelsea side that needed a lot of work – almost a total overhaul in fact.

You can rely on Mourinho to blend the best of the experienced heads with some fresh blood and in turn make his side very competitive.

Manchester City will be there or thereabouts as well, but the others may find it harder.

Arsenal might well have a good season, but making that jump from also-rans to genuine title contenders come the final few weeks of the season is maybe still a season away.

Liverpool had a great year last time out, but the loss of Luis Suarez will take some getting over no matter how much more depth and quality there is in their squad. Coping with the Champions League demands is also likely to take its toll domestically.

Manchester United are going to become a real force again under Louis van Gaal but, like Mourinho, his rebuilding job is vast. To expect it to all happen in half a pre-season is asking too much.

As for Everton and Tottenham, they will battle it out to try and grab that fourth spot.

Everton have a chance of coming close but Mauricio Pochettino's task at Tottenham is harder.

Their work in the transfer market so far this summer has not been very impressive and, though he will make them a better side, they aren't going to break that ceiling just yet.

## Rant fears for promoted sides

IT seems the most tired of clichés to talk about the promoted sides struggling but Leicester and Burnley face a real uphill battle to retain their hard-earned Premier League status.

They have found that most frustrating of transfer market quirks this summer.

Once you have won promotion you think it will be easy to attract good players to the club, but it doesn't always prove to be that simple.

Both clubs have been sensible and not gone out and tried to chase it, throwing stupid money just to get people in.

They have tried to keep settled squads and add appropriately, but at the very top level you often need a sprinkling of extra quality and Premier League experience to chuck into the mix.

It's not impossible without it; Saints, though spending a lot of cash on promotion, did keep together a successful Championship side.

But it's hard to see anything other than a huge battle for survival for those two sides.

As for QPR, it's very hard to know what to expect. Harry Redknapp has quality and experience in the squad and will bolster it further no doubt, but then so much depends on how they gel and also whether they keep and use Loic Remy.

On paper they don't look too bad, aside from the question as to where the goals are coming from if Remy isn't there still and fit and firing. That will probably be the key to their success or otherwise.

## Palace look to be in meltdown

TONY Pulis' departure from Crystal Palace is a massive blow to their chances.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of him leaving, he was a massive influence on that side and, even with a lack of transfer activity, you fancied he might just guide them to a surprisingly good campaign. All bets are off now.

They are going to do very well to avoid a season of struggle.

# LOSING LAMBERT MAY BE MOST COSTLY FOR SAINTS



RICKIE LAMBERT

### THERE is light at the end of the tunnel for Saints after the most traumatic of summers.

There was a bit of a joke doing the rounds in the press room in the final weeks, even months, of last season.

It went along the lines of this seeming like a reverse of the normal end of season run of things.

Those final weeks are usually the time to lap up the games, the interview opportunities and the news that comes automatically with the team playing matches, before a summer where every morning is filled with worry as to where the next story is coming from. At Saints everybody expected completely the opposite.

The final weeks and months of the season were, to be frank, pretty dull.

Saints had pretty much cemented themselves in eighth place and even behind the scenes it was clear that this lack of excitement had allowed minds in the dressing room to wander.

This felt like a dead end to a season and that it would explode into life once the fixtures were complete.

Nobody could seriously have envisaged just how accurate that would be. Within minutes of the final whistle of the closing

game against Manchester United came rumours of a bid for Luke Shaw.

That was just the start of what proved to be a quite incredible summer.

The unsettled summer at Saints all stemmed from the uncertainty over the future of Mauricio Pochettino (pictured right).

Had Saints had a strong leader and manager firmly committed to the club, then the chances are we wouldn't have seen the results that occurred.

Pochettino's non-committal answers to questions over his future told you all you needed to know. He was waiting to see if he got a better offer.

Saints couldn't afford to lose him after Nicola Cortese went, and so went along with this.

Of course, we all know what happened as first the manager departed for Tottenham and then the exodus of players started.

Adam Rant maintains that the biggest loss was actually the only one not bemoaned by fans, and that was Rickie Lambert's move to Liverpool.

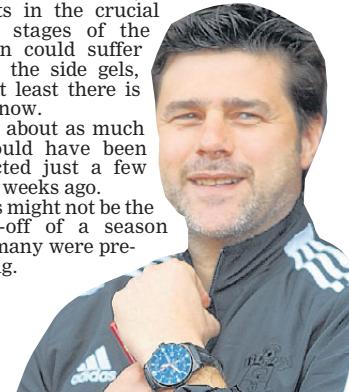
We keep hearing there were special circumstances, and while you can understand it was nice to reward Lambert's service to Saints by allowing him his dream move, to let arguably your most influen-

tial player go for just £4m because he wanted to, set up an excuse that was repeated by a host of others to try and get out the door. At least in the other circumstances Saints were well rewarded for their sales.

It didn't look good as the sales took place before signings came in, but in Ronald Koeman Saints have appointed well and, sure enough, new faces have been brought in. There is going to be a settling in period, and there is a worry that results in the crucial early stages of the season could suffer while the side gels, but at least there is hope now.

It is about as much as could have been expected just a few short weeks ago.

This might not be the write-off of a season that many were predicting.





# PREMIER LEAGUE 2014-15

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# Ones to watch

## Eagles swoop

CRYSTAL Palace have announced the signing of former Fulham captain Brede Hangeland on a one-year contract.

The 33-year-old Norway international's six-and-a-half year stay at Craven Cottage came to an end after the Whites decided not to offer the defender a new deal following their relegation from the Barclays Premier League.

Hangeland played more than 200 League games for Fulham and will provide stiff competition to the likes of Scott Dann, Paddy McCarthy and Damien Delaney for a place in the heart of Tony Pulis' defence.

## Nistelrooy role

RUUD van Nistelrooy has been named as one of the Netherlands' assistant coaches.

A tweet from the Dutch football association, the KNVB, announced that former Manchester United striker Van Nistelrooy, 38, will work under new coach Guus Hiddink and alongside Danny Blind, who is due to take over from Hiddink in 2018.

## Dier joins Spurs

TOTTENHAM have agreed a deal with Sporting Lisbon for the transfer of defender Eric Dier.

The 20-year-old, born in Cheltenham, can play as a defender or a defensive midfielder.

Dier, who had a spell on loan with Everton in 2011, is the grandson of former Football Association secretary Ted Croker.

## Dunne retires

REPUBLIC of Ireland defender Richard Dunne has announced his retirement from international football.

The 34-year-old QPR player won 80 caps for his country.

Dunne said: "I will continue to support the team as they embark upon their campaign under Martin O'Neill, and have every faith that they will qualify for France 2016."

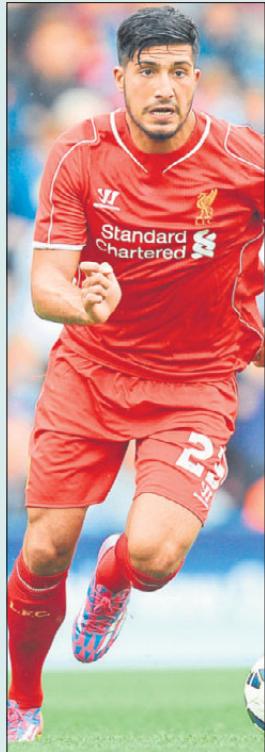
Check out who's moving where: Pages 12-13

# Bright young things

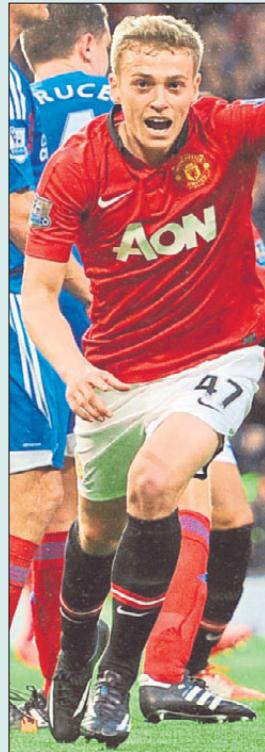
The new Barclays Premier League season is approaching fast and while fans and pundits debate which of their favourite established stars will excel during the 2014-15 campaign, a new clutch of unheralded talents is ready to make an unexpected splash. Here James Cann identifies five emerging players who will be determined to hit the headlines..



CALUM CHAMBERS



EMRE CAN



JAMES WILSON



DANNY DRINKWATER



KURT ZOUMA

After losing their crown jewels to the Premier League giants this summer, Saints fans were hoping that the club could hang on to one of the brightest stars in Calum Chambers.

But it wasn't to be as Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger snapped up the talented 19-year-old in a deal reported to be worth in the region of £16million.

The England Under-19 captain made 22 League appearances for Saints last season, helping the St Mary's club finish eighth.

Chambers, who joins Theo Walcott and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain in making the switch from Southampton to the Gunners, is both resolute in defence and can be powerfully skilful when making forays down the right wing.

French international Mathieu Debuchy's arrival at the Emirates means there will be stiff competition for the right-back slot, and Chambers could be deployed in other positions due to his versatility.

There are two prominent Emre Cans of Turkish descent and, although Liverpool's £9.75 million signing is not the grandmaster of chess, Brendan Rodgers will hope his new man can use his unpredictability and flexibility to unlock some of the tactical battles that lie ahead.

The Germany-born midfielder is a versatile operator, equally comfortable when running the show in the centre of the park, dropping into defence, or bombing forward.

He proved an unconvincing Bayern Munich wrong by excelling in his single season at Bayer Leverkusen after leaving the Allianz Arena and, at 20, he is already drawing comparisons to German midfield icons Bastian Schweinsteiger and Michael Ballack.

Now that Liverpool are back in the Champions League, Can should expect to feature regularly for the Premier League title-chasing Reds.

He may have been conspicuous by his absence from Manchester United's squad as they flew to the United States for a pre-season tour, but 18-year-old striker James Wilson definitely has the potential to make a big impression on Louis van Gaal.

Long-renowned as a prominent hotshot among United's reservists – he scored 20 goals in 20 games for the Under-16s team – Wilson seized the opportunity to announce himself to the Old Trafford faithful when making his senior debut in May.

After being handed a Premier League start against Hull, the life-long Red Devils fan scored twice in a 3-1 victory and provided fans with some rare cheer at the end of a disappointing campaign.

New manager Van Gaal's immediate priority may be restoring United to the top of English football, rather than promoting youth, but Wilson is bound to be given several more chances to press home his suitability for a first-team role.

Among the players about to taste life in the Premier League for the first time is Leicester's Danny Drinkwater, a pass master who played a pivotal role in restoring the Foxes to the top flight.

The former Manchester United trainee fine-tuned his game during loan spells with Huddersfield, Cardiff, Watford and Barnsley before landing at the King Power Stadium in 2012 and, two years later, he was celebrating the end of Leicester's 10-year exile from the top flight.

Drinkwater has formed a prosperous partnership with another United old boy, Matty James, in the Foxes' midfield and was nominated for the 2014 Championship Player of the Year award, only to miss out to Burnley's Danny Ings.

The fact Leicester boss Nigel Pearson has rewarded Drinkwater with a new four-year contract rather than pursue expensive additions to his midfield indicate the 24-year-old is expected to thrive at the highest level.

When Chelsea paid St Etienne around £12million to sign centre-back Kurt Zouma in January they were not gambling on unproven talent but, instead, securing the services of a man tipped to be a future captain of the French national team.

Zouma, still only 19, has made over 50 appearances for Ligue 1 club St Etienne and was considered rather unfortunate to miss out on Didier Deschamps' World Cup squad.

The extended summer break will, however, have given the imposing defender a head start in pre-season training and, with David Luiz now departed to Paris St Germain, Zouma will be a viable option to partner Blues captain John Terry when Gary Cahill is unavailable.

Deschamps believes Zouma can follow in the footsteps of Marcel Desailly and Laurent Blanc by skipping Les Bleus and this season offers the youngster a perfect opportunity to showcase his talent.



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# Michael Owen



Exclusive verdict from the former England star

# Suarez leaves big gap for Reds

HOW Liverpool cope with life after Luis Suarez is the biggest question ahead of this season.

We've been privileged to watch him strut his stuff over the past few years, he has developed into one of the best players in the world and his loss is a huge blow to their chances.

They came second last year, were within a whisker of winning it, and they needed their top players to remain and add to the squad.

All of a sudden, they have the pressures of more big games in the Champions League, so it was going to be a tough season anyway to maintain last year's form, even before he left.

They invested quite early on, but are going to have to invest more to be at the same level they were last year.

It is not just missing his goals, but his impact on the rest of the team.

The likes of Raheem Sterling and Daniel Sturridge upped their game last year and who is to say a large part of their improvement wasn't down to playing alongside one of the best players in the world?

Yes, they have got a massive amount of money for Suarez and will invest it wisely but, you cannot disguise it, it is a hammer blow for them.

They will definitely have the title in their mind this year, having gone so close last year. That'll be their main objective at the start of the season, but I do think it will be more difficult.

Even if Suarez had stayed, maintaining that improvement would have been really hard, especially when Manchester City went and won the League and have strengthened, while Chelsea were also close and have strengthened impressively with a couple of good players.

I have been so impressed with Brendan Rodgers, and, if he can squeeze a bit more improvement out of the squad, they are one team that are going to be in there with a chance.

It really is going to be a tough title to win this season. You'd have to say City and Chelsea are the two to beat. Having done what they did last year, and previous seasons for that matter, and gone and strengthened again.

City need to strengthen again as they only just won it last year. I was

expecting them to sign one or two top notch players this summer, but as of yet they've bought a full-back in Bacary Sagna, who probably won't be a starter ahead of Pablo Zabaleta and midfielder Fernando, who has a good reputation. Whether he goes straight into the team remains to be seen.

They need a real big hitter and certainly need to strengthen central defence, maybe adding one player to that area. So I am a bit underwhelmed by what they have done so far in the transfer market, but they are the team to beat as the holders.

All the things off the field are important to mention, too, as they are building something that is just going to blow everyone out of the water – their training ground, community facilities. It's a club that's obviously going places.

Chelsea will be a contender for sure, and they have strengthened well, although perhaps they need one more.

I feel sorry for strikers at Chelsea as it's not the easiest team to score goals in, compared to other top sides.

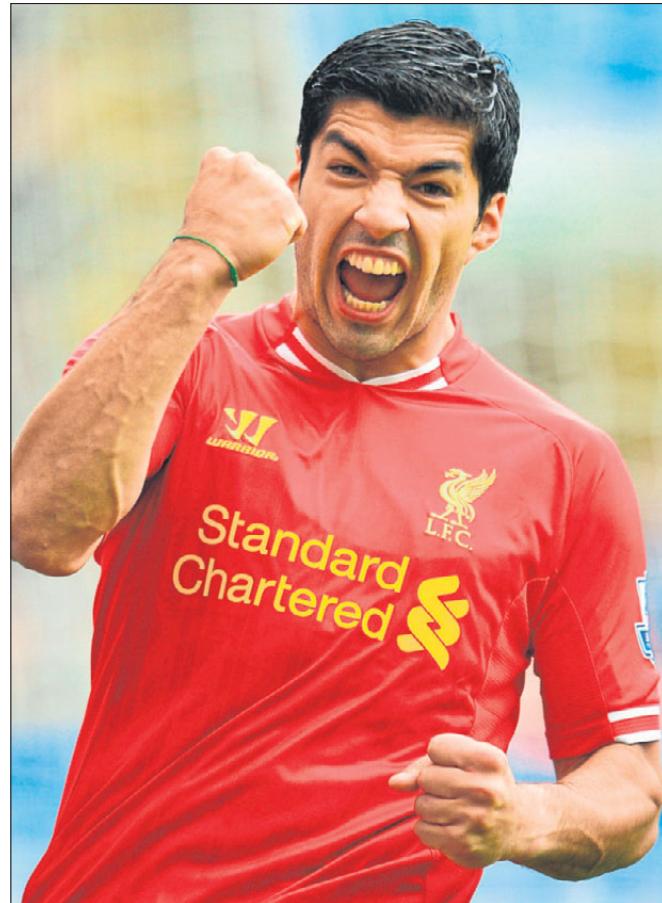
Cesc Fabregas is a like for like replacement for Frank Lampard, and he can score goals in midfield. Up front, Diego Costa is an exceptional player and could be the answer to their goalscoring problems. If they had a fellas who could score 20 goals a season in their team last year, then they'd probably have won the League, but they're not that easy to find.

Then you have got Manchester United, who have not got the Champions League to worry about. They have a new manager, some new players, so it's going to be as competitive as it has ever been again.

I would be staggered if United weren't a top-three team this year: I see them bouncing right back. Liverpool went from seventh to second in one season and I see United doing something very similar.

They have a manager who believes he is good enough, he will strut into Old Trafford with confidence in his ability, having managed at some of the biggest clubs.

It is a unique club he's managing. They've got a very good manager, are definitely going to invest in more



Luis Suarez and, above right, former team-mate Raheem Sterling

players and have fewer things to worry about – like Liverpool last year. They can really give the Premier League their full attention, and I'd be amazed if they weren't in the top three.

I have long been an admirer of Arsenal as a club, and manager Arsene Wenger, but if I was a fan I would have been frustrated over their lack of transfer activity in the past few years.

I think they play the game in the right way and are great to watch, but have just struggled for quality. They have a team of good players, but no real standouts over the past few years.

They are crying out for investment, and the signs are good. Alexis Sanchez is an outstanding signing, I really am impressed with that. He will score and create goals, and another one or two signings like that and I will start to believe they are serious contenders.

Roberto Martinez can continue to shine at Everton. They are the rung

down from the big five in my opinion, Tottenham and Everton are the next two in line and will be desperate to push into that group. A bit of wheeling and dealing in the transfer market will help Everton go a long way towards achieving that.

The main issue he has is Romelu Lukaku, who was on loan last season, and to get similar back in is key. Gareth Barry had a real influence, so re-signing him was really important. They have relied on loan players and need to make further investment.

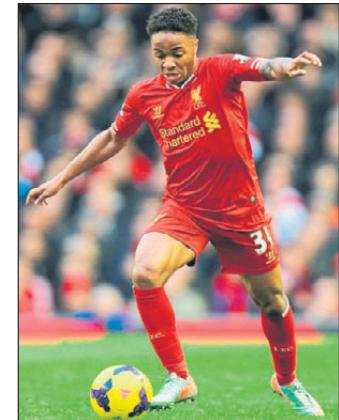
They've got a good youth team and Martinez is really comfortable with bloodling young players, so I am sure there will be a few making their debuts over the next couple of seasons – and some exciting ones at that.

Spurs have taken a couple of backward steps over the past couple of years. When I was playing, I'd go there and feel they had a pacy team who could really dominate games.

But one or two managers haven't worked, there are five or six signings that haven't and the investment into the squad from the Gareth Bale transfer money was pretty poor.

I was impressed with Mauricio Pochettino at Southampton, but he really will need to get a lot of improvement out of Tottenham.

Last year I said Southampton were one to watch, so was quite pleased with how they fared. They had a new manager, and lost some of their best players straight away. It will be very difficult to have a season like last year, but not impossible. They are a



*The likes of Raheem Sterling and Daniel Sturridge upped their game last year and who is to say a large part of their improvement wasn't down to playing alongside one of the best players in the world?*

well-run club and have money in the bank. With the war chest they could have, a lot will depend on the investment made into their squad.

Of the rest, there will be some that punch above their weight. I fancy West Ham to have a better season than last year, when they were in a relegation dogfight for a lot of the campaign.

And Hull as well – they performed better than their finishing position last season as they ended up only a couple of places above the relegation zone, but I like what Steve Bruce is doing. It is similar at Stoke. I like what Mark Hughes is building. Those three teams could be in mid-table or even above.

When it comes to the teams struggling to stay up, you look straight away at the teams who get promoted. Leicester seem to have a good squad and have plenty of money behind them, so, of the three, you would think they have a great chance of staying up.

QPR are next in the list and you'd have to say Burnley are the ones who just don't have the financial clout and squad depth, even though they had a phenomenal season last year and Sean Dyche did a great job. They are favourites to go down.

Last season I said Crystal Palace to go down, and felt justified in saying that as, by October, they had tailed off and I was patting myself on the back.

All of a sudden, they had a change of manager and some players, and things just changed. So, even for Burnley, there is still hope.

■ Michael Owen was speaking to Luke Thornhill



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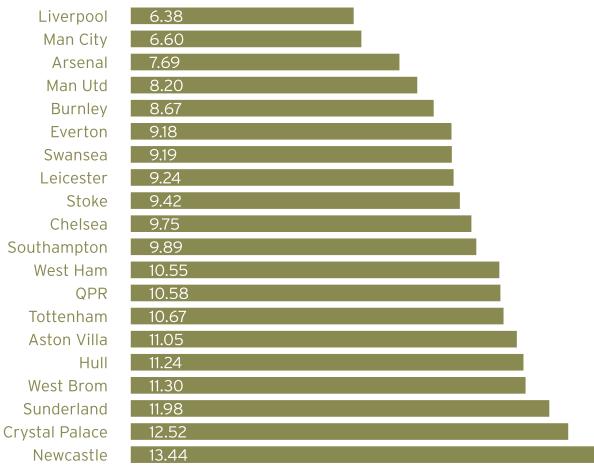
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# Season preview

## Barclays Premier League preview

The Press Association's MatchStory team have picked through last season's data for the most interesting comparisons ahead of the 2014/15 Barclays Premier League season. Who attacked and defended most effectively, who was the most dangerous in the air and from distance, and what can we expect from the three newly-promoted clubs?

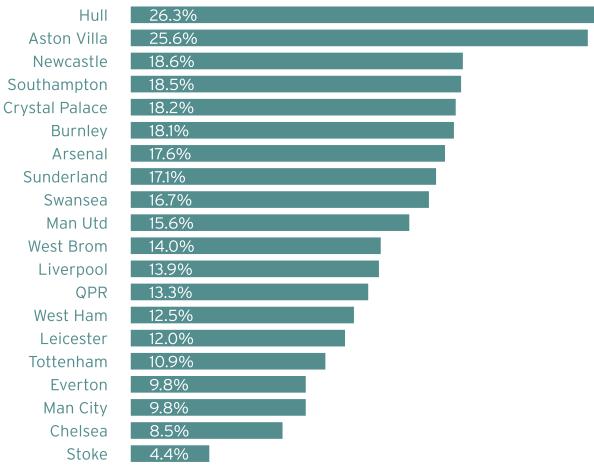
### How many shots did it take each of the 2014/15 Premier League clubs to score a goal last season?



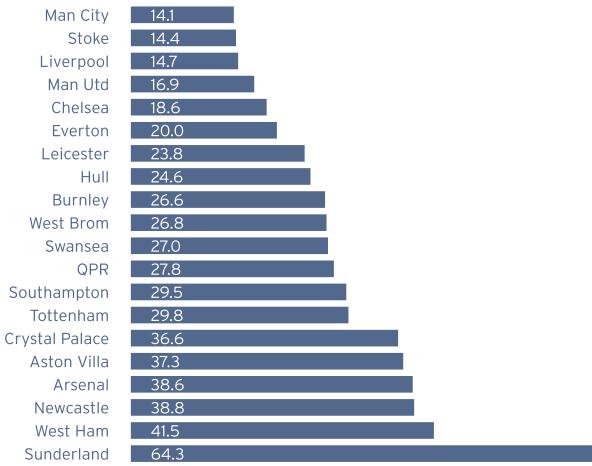
### How many shots did it take each of the 2014/15 Premier League clubs to concede a goal last season?



### What percentage of goals scored by each the 2014/15 Premier League clubs last season were headers?

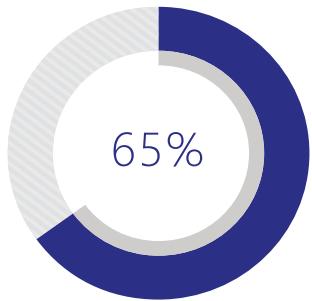


### How many shots from outside the area did it take each 2014/15 Premier League side to score a goal last season?



### A key stat about each of the newly-promoted Premier League sides

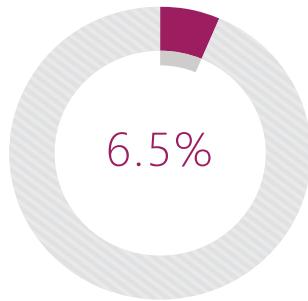
Leicester tended to concede early



65% of the goals conceded by Leicester came in the first half (average was 45%)

They'll find it tougher to come back from behind in the top flight

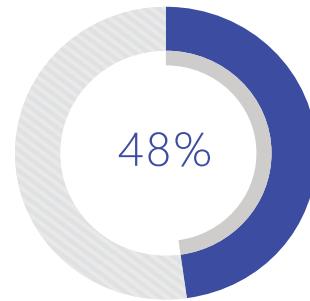
Burnley's defence was formidable



6.5% (1 in every 15.4) of the shots faced by Burnley resulted in a goal last season (average is 9.8% or 1 in 10.2)

Having the most resilient defence in the Championship gives them a solid foundation

QPR didn't convince up front



48% (11/23) of the other Championship teams scored more goals than QPR last season

Without a rethink up front, they could struggle for goals in the Premier League



When you are asked by the biggest club in the world, it's a big chance for me. When there is a challenge like this, I never let it go

# THE BOSS

## Great expectations as Van Gaal rides into town

By Andy Hampson

THE anticipation began to build in the closing weeks of last season when it became apparent Louis van Gaal was the man Manchester United wanted as their next manager.

After a dismal 2013-14 campaign by United's lofty standards, the possibility of the successful and experienced Dutchman arriving at Old Trafford offered a tantalising glimpse of a more exciting future.

That increased when Van Gaal's appointment was confirmed weeks later and created a genuine buzz as he signed off from his previous job by guiding the Netherlands to the World Cup semi-finals.

The Dutch enjoyed an unexpectedly long run in Brazil, with Van Gaal receiving much of the credit for their progress.

The 62-year-old stood up to the challenge, spoke confidently and provided the inspiration for a squad lacking the quality on paper that many of the other leading sides – notably the Spain side they thrashed 5-1 – possessed.

He was hailed for his innovation in using a drinks break to change tactics and for his mind games in substituting a goalkeeper prior to a penalty shoot-out.

Such a golden touch is not dissimilar to that United were used to during 26 mostly glorious years under Sir Alex Ferguson.

The challenge of succeeding Ferguson may have swallowed David Moyes, who also found it tough to grapple with the sheer size of the club, but Van Gaal will not lack the confidence to do so.

With titles in the Netherlands, Spain and Germany under his belt, he strode into Old Trafford like he belonged there this summer, and immediately spoke with commanding authority.

At a stroke, without even kicking a ball in anger under their new manager, it seemed United were back in the Premier League title frame after last season's disappointing seventh-place finish.

The team will now need to live up to the standards Van Gaal will demand of them, but already the mood has been transformed.

"For me, the challenge is always first, not fourth," he said at his unveiling, immediately aiming high. "I will do my best and that's what I can give. It's the biggest club of the world, which I know already after two days.

"When you are asked by the biggest club in the world, it's a big chance for me. When there is a challenge like this, I never let it go."

United were widely perceived to have lost ground after Ferguson retired with yet another Premier League title to his name in 2013. They failed to make much of an impression in the transfer market and momentum was never gained after a slow start to the campaign. In the end, it came as little surprise when Moyes was given his marching

### Van Gaal factfile

Full name	Aloysius Paulus Maria van Gaal	
Born	Amsterdam, 8 August 1951	
Playing career	Apps Goals	
1972-1973	Ajax	0 0
1973-1977	Royal Antwerp	41 7
1977-1978	Telstar	25 1
1978-1986	Sparta Rotterdam	248 26
1986-1987	AZ Alkmaar	17 0
Managerial career		
1991-1997	Ajax	
1997-2000	Barcelona	
2000-2002	Netherlands	
2002-2003	Barcelona	
2005-2009	AZ Alkmaar	
2009-2011	Bayern Munich	
2012-2014	Netherlands	
2014-	Manchester United	
Managerial honours		
Ajax: Eredivisie 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96; KNVB Cup 1992-93; Champions League 1994-95; UEFA Cup 1991-92; UEFA Super Cup 1995; Intercontinental Cup 1995.		
Barcelona: La Liga 1997-98, 1998-99; Copa del Rey 1997-98; UEFA Super Cup 1997.		
AZ Alkmaar: Eredivisie 2008-09.		
Bayern Munich: Bundesliga 2009-10; DFB-Pokal 2009-10; DFB-Supercup 2010.		

orders in April. This time, despite being without the services of Van Gaal until July due to the World Cup, the club got proactive. Van Gaal gave his consent to the signings of Luke Shaw and Ander Herrera, and the two were already in place when he arrived to take office.

Some significant players have left the club since the end of last season in Rio Ferdinand, Nemanja Vidic and Patrice Evra, while Ryan Giggs has left the playing staff to become Van Gaal's assistant.

It remains to be seen whether Van Gaal can lift the squad to the levels he aspires to – and indeed are expected of him at a club fed on success for two decades – but his confidence to do so should be compelling viewing.

Van Gaal does have his critics. His style can be abrasive, and talented former players such as Rivaldo, Franck Ribery, Luca Toni and Hristo Stoichkov may not speak highly of him.

But it does seem the man and the club are a natural fit. United's demands are high and Van Gaal is determined to meet them.

He said: "It's a great challenge because of the expectation. I worked for Barcelona, in my opinion No.1 in Spain; I have coached Ajax, No.1 in the Netherlands; I have coached Bayern Munich, No.1 in Germany. Now Man United, who are No.1 in England, and I hope I shall fulfil expectations."



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# Title contenders

More title  
hopefuls

# City's world domination plan grows

By Andy Hampson

IT took a late twist of fate in their favour, but Manchester City ended last season with their ambitious owners' bold plan roughly back on track.

After the disappointments of the 2012-13 season, when they put up a limp defence of their first Premier League title, they bounced back with two more trophies in the cabinet.

The important one was the reclaimed Premier League, captured in clinical fashion in the run-in as Liverpool faltered with victory in sight.

When added to the Capital One Cup, what could have been a second frustrating season was transformed into a highly successful one – the club's most trophy-laden since 1970.

City's progress since Sheikh Mansour took them over in 2008 has been remarkable, and the dreams of establishing a new powerbase in European football are well and truly alive.

The challenges now must be to win the title in a convincing fashion – to lay further the foundations for prolonged domestic dominance – and, of course, to make an impact in the Champions League.

Belated progress was made on the European front last season as, under the guidance of Manuel Pellegrini, who impressed in his first season in charge, City reached the last 16 for the first time.

With developments off the field in the last six years almost as radical as those on it, there is a sense the club will not stop

even when they reach the heights they want to.

They are hungry for more, and the players are well aware of the growing expectations.

Playmaker Samir Nasri, who signed a new five-year contract in the summer, said: "When you play for Manchester City at this time it is like playing for Real Madrid or Barcelona. The expectation is really high."

"The owners invest a lot of money to buy new players every year to make the team better. We have to win titles. We won the league twice in three years and finished second. We won the FA Cup, Capital One Cup – we have won everything in England. Now we have to see the bigger picture and try to do something in the Champions League. With the players we have that is what we need to do – everyone has to be ambitious."

The perception of City as a club that has simply spent their way to success is far from the full picture. There is plenty of substance behind the squad of expensively-assembled world-class players.

City have invested in all facets of their operation and have grown into a huge entity that could sustain considerable long-term success.

The club's parent company, the City Football Group, have expanded worldwide with investment in clubs in the United States, Australia and Japan. They have a football school in Abu Dhabi, their new £200million academy and training complex opens this autumn, and work has begun to

expand the Etihad Stadium to a capacity of 62,170.

The enlarged commercial department continues to bring in additional revenue from around the world, but strong and tangible links with their local community remain.

There have been regular setbacks, the latest and most notable being their failure to meet the Financial Fair Play regulations of European governing body UEFA, which incurred penalties, including a transfer spending cap.

The future of talismanic midfielder Yaya Toure was also a subject of speculation during the summer and, although apparently resolved, is proof there can be no room for complacency.

But on the whole, the picture seems rosy. Certainly in terms of the shop window – the first team – the inclusive and expansive style of Pellegrini is promising rich rewards.

The early summer signings – Fernando, Bacary Sagna and new back-up goalkeeper Willy Caballero – lack the excitement factor of the likes of Cesc Fabregas, Diego Costa and Alexis Sanchez might provide their rivals, but they started from a position of strength.

They also have the added experience of Frank Lampard available until January, after he signed on loan from City's sister outfit New York City FC.

City will enter the new season as title favourites and confident of a deep run in Europe.

There should be little reason to doubt either.

## FAN'S VIEW

Never mind the new signings, the best news I've heard this summer is that Yaya Toure is staying. He may have had a poor World Cup, but the legend is going to win us another title. No problem.

– Stevie Williams

## STAN JAMES ODDS

Man City to retain their Premier League title 15-8



We have won everything in England. Now we have to see the bigger picture and try to do something in the Champions League

– Samir Nasri

**Man City**

## 2013-14 player stats

	2013-14 player stats
Most goals: Yaya Toure	20
Most assists: Toure/Silva	9
Most shots on target: Sergio Aguero	41
Most shots off target: Edin Dzeko	65
Most red cards: Vincent Kompany	1
Most yellow cards: Pablo Zabaleta	11
Free-kicks won: David Silva	41
Defensive clearances: Martin Demichelis	141

## 2013-14 team stats

Shots on target	231
Shots off target	441
Corners	298
Hit woodwork	10
Yellow cards	72
Red cards	1
Penalties awarded	7/6
Penalties conceded	1

## 2013-14 Premier League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1st	38	27	5	6	102	37	86



**MAN CITY: 2/1\***



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# Title contenders

# All my dreams and wishes have come true in the end

By Carl Markham

LIVERPOOL striker Rickie Lambert hopes he is the missing link which will get his new team over the line in the Premier League title race.

The Reds came agonisingly close to ending their 24-year quest to win the title last season with their challenge faltering in the final week as Manchester City swept past to take top spot.

While Golden Boot winner Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge provided the goals which sustained their challenge, Liverpool were left desperately looking for an alternative option in a key match at home to fellow challengers Chelsea.

José Mourinho's side frustrated their hosts for long periods and could not be broken down in a pivotal 2-0 defeat which not only ended an 11-game winning streak but also dented Liverpool's confidence.

The visitors' massed ranks of defence kept out the trickery and speed of Suarez and Sturridge, and left manager Brendan Rodgers crying out for a different option.

Lambert's surprise return to the club he left as a trainee at least provides the Reds boss with something different, and the England international is keen to make a contribution.

"To be honest, I wasn't expecting a chance at Liverpool, but I have got it," said Lambert. "Now that I've got it I will do everything to not let it go, and I am more than confident that I will take the chance and I will be able to improve my game again."

"I am mentally prepared for almost anything. I've experienced a lot of ups and downs, and I believe I am at a time in my life when anything happens I can get the most out of it."

"I know what matters is what I do on the pitch and the minutes I play to help push the club forward."

"Whatever role Brendan has for me, I just hope I can help them push on and hopefully clinch the title. I can't wait to get started. I want to hit the ground running, I want to start well and I believe I will."

A quirk of the fixture computer sees Lambert's former club Southampton up first at Anfield on the opening weekend of the season.

When he left St Mary's in June – with the best wishes of the management who realised they could not deny him a return to his boyhood club – the striker wrote an open letter to fans thanking them for their support.

He also stressed how important Southampton, for whom he scored 117

goals in 235 appearances, including 28 goals in 75 Premier League matches, had been to his career.

"When I grew up, there was only one club I loved," he added. "I can honestly say now I have two clubs which will always be in my heart, and that is thanks to the Saints fans."

The Southampton fans have been brilliant. They knew what Liverpool meant to me, and they know it has always been my boyhood club.

"The development I have had has been unbelievable, and that is full credit to the people at Southampton."

"I'll never forget what they have done for me and I can't thank them enough."

A new chapter awaits for Lambert, however, and he intends to make the most of his second chance with the Merseysiders.

"I'm going to get fitter. I'm going to do everything I can to get onto the next level now. Even though I'm 32, I feel like a kid again," he said.

"It's not just playing for Liverpool it is the fact I'm coming home. I've been away for eight years. All my dreams and wishes have come true in the end."



Rickie Lambert in the red of his beloved Liverpool and, above, in action for England at the World Cup this summer



Chelsea & Arsenal

## Liverpool



Capacity 45,276  
Record (v Wolves, 1952) 61,905

### 2013-14 Premier League

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
2nd	38	26	6	6	101	50

### 2013-14 player stats

Most goals: Luis Suárez	31
Most assists: Steven Gerrard	14
Most shots on target: Luis Suárez	81
Most shots off target: Luis Suárez	100
Most red cards: Jordan Henderson	1
Most yellow cards: Steven Gerrard	7
Free-kicks won: Luis Suárez	67
Defensive clearances: Martin Skrtel	426

### 2013-14 team stats

Shots on target	254
Shots off target	390
Corners	223
Hit woodwork	18
Yellow cards	54
Red cards	1
Penalties awarded	12/10
Penalties conceded	4

### FAN'S VIEW

Last season surpassed all expectations, and fans are desperate for more. Suárez's goals will be missed, but we're looking forward to a team that's wholly Rodgers' now, and not focused on one man.

– Richard Preston

### STAN JAMES ODDS

Liverpool to lift the Premier League title 9-1



**MANAGER**  
Brendan Rodgers

**LIVERPOOL: 9/1\***



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# Title contenders

**Chelsea**



Capacity 41,837  
Record (v Arsenal, 1935) 82,905

2013-14 Premier League						
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
3rd	38	25	7	6	71	82

2013-14 player stats	
Most goals: Eden Hazard	14
Most assists: Eden Hazard	7
Most shots on target: Eden Hazard	28
Most shots off target: Fernando Torres	45
Most red cards: Three players	1
Most yellow cards: Ivanovic/Ramires	8
Free-kicks won: Eden Hazard	89
Defensive clearances: John Terry	229

2013-14 team stats	
Shots on target	220
Shots off target	470
Corners	253
Hit woodwork	13
Yellow cards	59
Red cards	3
Penalties awarded	7/5
Penalties conceded	1

## FAN'S VIEW

Can't wait for it to kick off again. Jose Mourinho has done well to bring in Cesc Fabregas and I'm sure Diego Costa will get a bagful of goals for us. I reckon it'll be between us and Man City for the title.

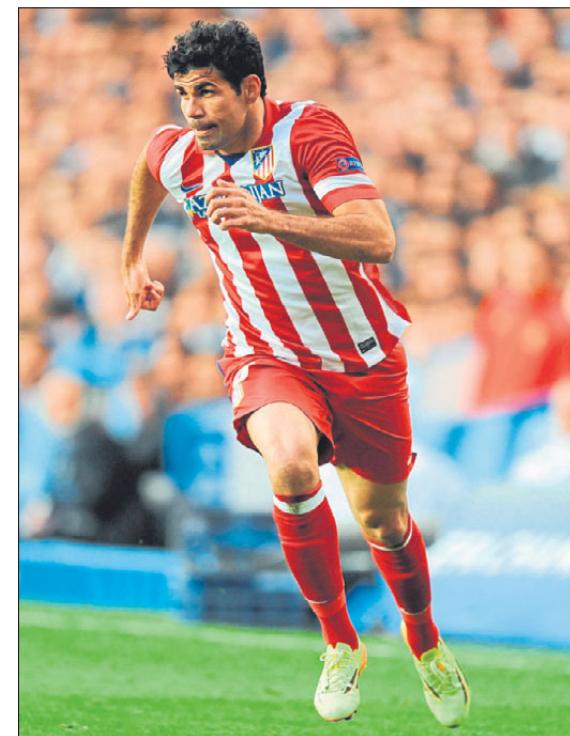
**- Joe Davies**

## STAN JAMES ODDS

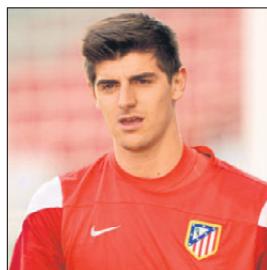
Chelsea to win their fifth title 15-8



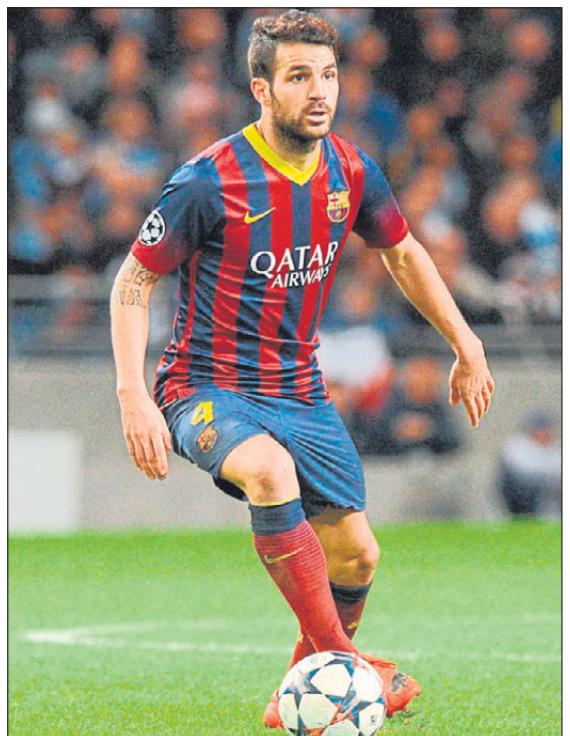
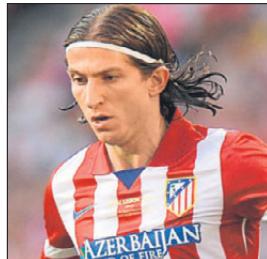
**MANAGER**  
Jose Mourinho



We got exactly what we need and what we want. The squad is one which I like very much



Chelsea have bought Diego Costa (left) and Filipe Luis (below) from Atletico Madrid, while keeper Thibaut Courtois (above) has returned from loan at the same club and Cesc Fabregas has arrived from Barcelona



# Now Jose knows it is time to deliver

By Matt McGeehan

JOSE MOURINHO expects in 2014-2015.

The self-proclaimed Special One expects his rejuvenated Chelsea to challenge for the Premier League title.

He anticipates a fierce challenge just to finish in the top four, with Tottenham, Everton and, in particular, Manchester United reeling from missing out on Champions League qualification last term.

And he may expect a phone call from owner Roman Abramovich and a premature departure from Stamford Bridge if Chelsea do not deliver a trophy in the second season of his return on a four-year contract. Despite beating champions Manchester City home and away and runners-up Liverpool twice last season, the Blues finished four points behind in third after costly losses to Aston Villa, Sunderland – a defeat which ended Mourinho's 78-match unbeaten home record in the league – and Crystal Palace.

The competition keeps Mourinho's motivation high

and he knows there is little room for error.

"Why I like the Premier League so much is that at this moment, nobody knows who is going to win the title," he said.

"I know that we want to and I know that we can, but it is the kind of competition where I can't say."

"At this moment, I think between us, Liverpool, Arsenal, Man United, Man City – who is going to be first, who is going to play in the Europa League, I don't know."

"There were good teams last season and there will be better teams this season because everyone is investing. If you make a team to be champions, then you have a big chance to finish in the top four."

Mourinho, who was given his chance in management as assistant to new United manager Louis van Gaal at Barcelona, grew tired of the Spanish duopoly in three years at Real Madrid.

Yet Mourinho and Chelsea have stripped assets from Atletico Madrid, last season's champions, meaning the Primera Division is likely to return to its two-team duel.

Striker Diego Costa and left-back Filipe Luis have been signed from Atletico, while goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois' three-year loan at the Vicente Calderon has come to an end and he will challenge Petr Cech for the Blues' No.1 jersey.

Courtois' return provokes a quandary, with Cech still at the top of his game and both men wanting to play as much as possible. The goalkeeper

## Diego Costa

Born: Lagarto, Brazil, 7 Oct 1988

Club	Games	Goals
Braga	0	0
Penafiel (loan)	13	5
Atletico Madrid	0	0
Braga (loan)	7	0
Celta (loan)	30	5
Albacete (loan)	35	9
Valladolid	34	8
Atletico Madrid	94	43
Rayo Vallecano (loan)	16	10
Chelsea	0	0
<b>International record</b>		
Brazil	2	0
Spain	4	0

situation illustrates a wider changing of the guard at Stamford Bridge, a transition captain John Terry continues to be part of after signing a one-year contract extension.

Record goalscorer Frank Lampard's 13-year association with Chelsea ended in June, left-back Ashley Cole left after eight seasons and striker Samuel Eto'o after one.

In came Costa, Filipe Luis, former Arsenal midfielder Cesc Fabregas from Barcelona and Mario Pasalic, who has been sent on a season's loan to Spanish club Elche, with Chelsea looking for a long-term return from the Croatian.

"We got exactly what we need and what we want," Mourinho said. "The squad is one which I like very much and I look forward to starting the season."

A number of players who spent last term on loan will challenge for first-team places, including midfielder Oriol Romeu, who recently signed a new three-year contract.

The signings were financed in no small part by David Luiz's departure to Paris St

Germain in a deal done before the World Cup; had it happened afterwards, the fee for the Brazil defender might not have been as high as £40million.

It was a mixed World Cup for Chelsea, with Brazilians Oscar, Willian and Ramires needing a pick-me-up, and German World Cup winner forward Andre Schurrle and keen to make a greater impression on the Premier League in his second season.

Belgium's Eden Hazard, England's Gary Cahill and Spain's Fabregas and Costa will be among those looking to forget Brazil 2014.

Costa will carry a burden and expectation which, recent history suggests, few Chelsea strikers – Didier Drogba apart – have enjoyed. Mourinho repeatedly bemoaned the absence of a 'killer' striker last term, and he expects Costa to be that man.

He also expects more from Hazard, Chelsea's sparkling performer of 2013-14.

Mourinho demands more from Chelsea, so does Abramovich. Whether they will be satisfied come May 2015 remains to be seen.



**CHELSEA: 15/8\***



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# Title contenders

# Wenger to have the last laugh?

by Jim van Wijk

ARSENE WENGER'S hair may have still been wet with Champagne following Arsenal's dramatic FA Cup final win over Hull, but even in that moment of triumph, the Gunners boss knew exactly the questions he would face about what lay ahead for his team.

"I trust you will have to be more creative in press conferences now," the Arsenal manager quipped when huddled into the bowels of Wembley for a post-match newspaper briefing.

The comeback from a seasoned hack was just as razor-sharp. "Well, now we will be saying you have only won one trophy in the last nine years!"

All very light-hearted, of course, but the underlying message was clear and everybody knew it – especially Wenger.

How Arsenal move on from their extra-time win over Hull – who they trailed 2-0 after a shocking first 10 minutes in the May sunshine – is likely to be another key moment in the Frenchman's long reign.

Earlier in the season, Wenger's 1,000th match in charge ended with a humiliating 6-0 defeat at Chelsea, his young side simply blown away one Saturday lunchtime by the rampant Blues, who then looked a sound bet for the championship.

But after seeing off a late challenge from Everton to record five straight wins that secured fourth place and another crack at the Champions League, Wenger hopes the manner of Arsenal's recovery at Wembley can prove a base on which to mount a long-overdue sustained assault on the Barclays Premier League title.

They were four points clear at the start of January, only to fail to last the distance once

more. "The Cup win was an important moment in the life of this team," reflected Wenger, who along with his squad were taken aback by the support received on an open-top bus parade through Islington 24 hours later, some 250,000 Gunners fans having lined the streets around the Emirates Stadium to celebrate the end of their long wait for a sweet taste of success.

"This FA Cup victory was more important than all of my other ones at Arsenal, when we made the double twice, we had already won the League, so you are not under the pressure that we were under this time.

"To lose against Hull would certainly have been a major setback, to win will be a good platform to build on to come back even stronger next year."

Wenger has long championed the potential of his young squad, with the likes of Aaron Ramsey, Jack Wilshere, Kieran Gibbs, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Laurent Koscielny having experienced the winning feeling.

German trio Per Mertesacker, Lukas Podolski and Mesut Ozil were able to take that to another level at the World Cup, with much expected from Arsenal's record signing in his second Premier League season. While

Wenger also maintained the squad did not need major additions this summer, his work in securing the services of £30million Chile forward Alexis Sanchez was seen as something of a personal coup, the Gunners boss having used his time working as a media pundit in Brazil for French television to the club's advantage.

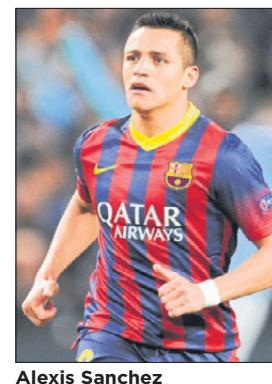
Defender Mathieu Debuchy comes in from Newcastle as a Premier League-ready

replacement for compatriot Bacary Sagna, who left as a free agent for Manchester City, while the club appear close to bringing in Colombia goalkeeper David Ospina from Nice as back-up for Wojciech Szczesny.

Despite Wenger's sound transfer moves – which included the decision to pass up on the chance to bring former captain Cesc Fabregas back from Barcelona – you cannot help feel that being able to keep everyone fit may well again prove key to Arsenal's hopes next season.

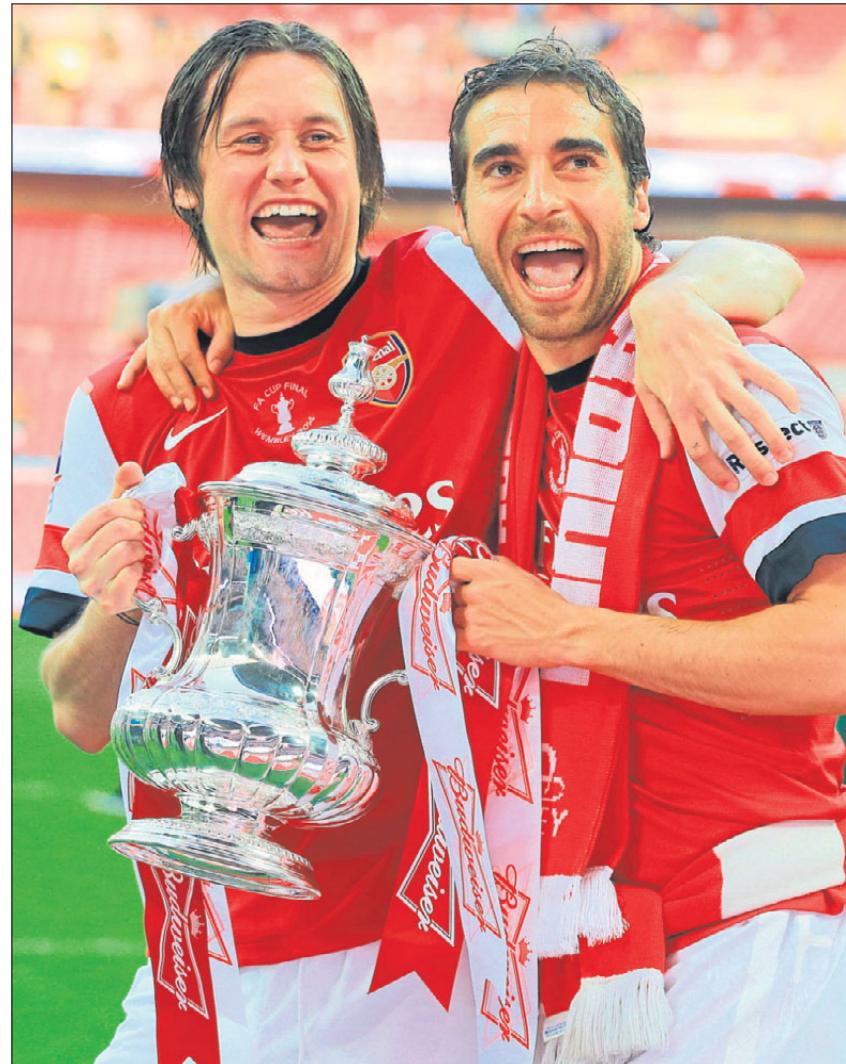
England forward Theo Walcott is scheduled to return by late autumn, one player not scarred by the failings of the Three Lions in Brazil and who will offer another pacey dimension to Arsenal's formidable forward line.

Should he and all others stay out of what is usually a busy treatment room come early spring, then maybe there could soon be another trophy quickly tucked back at the Emirates Stadium – when the journalists will just have to get creative all over again.



Alexis Sanchez

Will Spanish ace Herrera spark resurgence at United? Page 10



**Tomas Rosicky (left) and team-mate Mathieu Flamini celebrate after helping to end Arsenal's long wait for a major trophy by lifting the FA Cup**



*The FA Cup victory was more important than all my other ones at Arsenal. It will be a good platform to build on*

**- Arsene Wenger**

## Arsenal



Emirates Stadium

Capacity	60,338
Record (v Sunderland 1935)	73,295

### 2013-14 Premier League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
4th	38	24	7	7	68	41	79

### 2013-14 player stats

Most goals: Olivier Giroud	16
Most assists: Mesut Ozil	9
Most shots on target: Olivier Giroud	36
Most shots off target: Olivier Giroud	75
Most red cards: Four players	1
Most yellow cards: Rosicky, Flamini	8
Free-kicks won: Olivier Giroud	58
Defensive clearances: Per Mertesacker	251

### 2013-14 team stats

Shots on target	206
Shots off target	318
Corners	214
Hit woodwork	9
Yellow cards	54
Red cards	4
Penalties awarded	3/3
Penalties conceded	6

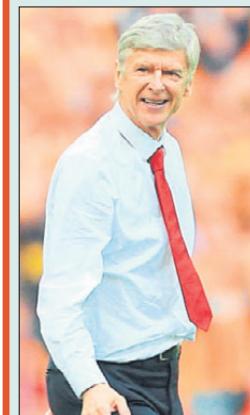
### FAN'S VIEW

Good to see Wenger finally dipping into his pocket! Alexis Sanchez and Mathieu Debuchy look decent buys, but I still think we're missing the one out-and-out world class striker that will get us the title.

**- Josh Evans**

### STAN JAMES ODDS

Arsenal to win a trophy this season **12-5**



**MANAGER**  
Arsene Wenger



**ARSENAL: 6/1\***



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# Title contenders

How will the promoted teams fare this season? Pages 14-15

## Manchester Utd



Capacity 75,731  
Record (v Arsenal, 2006) 75,595

### 2013-14 Premier League

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
7th	38	19	7	12	64	43

### 2013-14 player stats

Most goals: Wayne Rooney	17
Most assists: Wayne Rooney	10
Most shots on target: Wayne Rooney	40
Most shots off target: Wayne Rooney	58
Most red cards: Nemanja Vidic	2
Most yellow cards: Wayne Rooney	8
Free-kicks won: Adnan Januzaj	60
Defensive clearances: Nemanja Vidic	268

2013-14 team stats	
Shots on target	179
Shots off target	346
Corners	216
Hit woodwork	11
Yellow cards	68
Red cards	3
Penalties awarded	5/5
Penalties conceded	4

### FAN'S VIEW

Louis van Gaal is going to need at least a season to get United back on an even keel, but I still think he can bring us Champions League football. I'd settle for one of the cups and fourth place.

- Jim Wiltshire

### STAN JAMES ODDS

Manchester United to win the league 11-2



**MANAGER**  
Louis van Gaal



by Andy Hampson

THIS summer has been especially good for Manchester United.

In previous years close seasons may have been spent basking in the glory of yet another trophy success or looking forward to pushing for more glory on multiple fronts.

This time it has been different, after a dismal 2013-14 campaign in which United finished an almost inconceivable seventh in the Premier League and failed to qualify for Europe.

Gloom set in early after a slow start and momentum was never generated as bad result followed bad result. By April the mood at Old Trafford was glum, and a bold decision was made to sack manager David Moyes.

After 26 years of almost unprecedented success under Moyes' predecessor Sir Alex Ferguson, this was a strident move at a club simply unused to changing their top man.

Yet almost immediately the atmosphere lifted. First interim boss Ryan Giggs restored a feelgood factor and then the appointment of the confident, experienced and successful Louis van Gaal brought genuine excitement.

Already the dark days of the spring, when they were thrashed at home by rivals Liverpool and Manchester City, just a few months ago, seem a world away.

And while there has been considerable change off the field, there has been quite a bit on it, too.

Veteran defenders Rio Ferdinand, Nemanja Vidic and Patrice Evra have all left the club, while Giggs has hung up his boots to become Van Gaal's number two. Between them they made 2,097 appearances for the club and their experience is sure to be missed.

There are new faces with the signings of £27million England left-back Luke Shaw and £29m Spanish midfielder Ander Herrera, with a promise of more to come once Van Gaal has assessed the squad.

Much will be expected of 19-year-old Shaw, who already has a considerable reputation

# Hip, hip Herrera! United are back



Left: Big things are expected of Ander Herrera in United colours this season

Top: United turn on the style on their pre-season tour of the States. From left, Javier Hernandez, Wayne Rooney, Antonio Valencia and Ashley Young

after impressing in the Premier League with Southampton and earning a trip to the World Cup.

The youngster himself is not fazed by the challenge awaiting him, although he didn't get off the best of starts when van Gaal had to devise a special training programme to get him fit in pre-season.

"He needs to be fit and he is not very fit," said the United boss.

"Therefore he cannot perform what I want so first he has to be fit and has to train individually."

"I have spoken with him and we have made the programme. He agreed with me. We will have to see how long it takes (for him to get fit)."

Shaw said: "I don't feel any pressure to come in for Evra."



*I don't feel under pressure to come in for Evra. I'll just focus on my own game*

- Luke Shaw

He has been great for the club for the last 10 years and I hope I can carry that on. I will just try to focus on my own game, what I do on the pitch."

Shaw will take his place in a back line in which Chris

Smalling and Phil Jones, long tipped for stardom but hampered by injuries, are expected to become first-choice centre-backs.

Midfield has been a weakness for some time and it is hoped Herrera, whom United tried but failed to sign a year ago, will provide some of the missing thrust.

Whether he will do so in partnership with Marouane Fellaini remains to be seen, with uncertainty over the Belgian's future after an uncertain first season following his £27.5m move from Everton.

Wilfried Zaha, who made little impression last year after joining from Crystal Palace and ended the season on loan at Cardiff, has also been linked

with a move. Van Gaal has also brought in his own men in Albert Stuivenberg and Marcel Bout as assistant coaches and Frans Hoek as goalkeeping coach.

They are promising a fresh approach to training, which they hope will have an impact on performances.

The effect of all the changes at Old Trafford remains to be seen, but it is quite clear the feeling around the club is different.

The new campaign will begin amid genuine optimism – especially after an unbeaten pre-season that was capped by winning the International Champions Cup by beating Liverpool 3-1 in Miami – and there was little of that around for large spells last season.



**MAN UNITED: 5/1\***



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# Title contenders

More clubs in focus



Gareth Barry's experience will be vital to Everton, and manager Roberto Martinez sees his midfield axis with James McCarthy (above) as key to his team



*He was a big reason why I wanted to come back. The way the manager speaks to me I can play into my 40s!*

- Gareth Barry

## Barry so glad to be back

By Carl Markham

IT may not have been the most sensational of summer signings, but veteran midfielder Gareth Barry's long-term commitment may be one of the most sensible.

Anyone who watched the 33-year-old at Everton last season could not fail to be impressed with the control and composure he brought in the centre of the park.

The only reason he really stood out was for the simple things: positioning, passing, tackling and commitment – which just about sums up the player.

Manager Roberto Martinez was keen to ensure Barry returned to the club once his loan spell from – and subsequently his contract with – Manchester City came to an end. Despite financially better offers from elsewhere, the former England international chose to go back to Goodison Park for the next three years. Having seen how Martinez

blended youth and experience without affecting his attacking principles, Barry is keen to help push the side on to the next level, having challenged for the top four for a long spell before eventually having to settle for Europa League football.

"We always want to improve, but we have to be careful as it is a different season playing European football," he said. "There are going to be a lot of

### Experienced midfielder relishing the challenge of return to Europe

games in the Europa League, and a lot of the younger players have not experienced European football, but we are positive.

"We will set our targets high. Our main challenge is the expectation.

"Last season, we produced some fantastic football and got some great results, and it is up

to us to do that with European football as well. I am really excited to be playing on a Thursday night. It has been a few years since the club has experienced that."

Barry's spirits will have been lifted further when news came through that the club had broken their transfer record by

signing fans favourite Romelu Lukaku from Chelsea for £28million.

Everton's previous record was the £15m paid to Standard Liege in 2006 for midfielder Marouane Fellaini, who moved on to Manchester United last summer for £28m.

The club also brought in £4m midfielder Muhamed Besic and persuaded Ross Barkley to sign a new long-term contract.

Barry's Champions League

experience with City will be vital, but the player is confident Martinez will have a plan which will help them not only cope with the additional demands of European football, but flourish playing it.

"We will have to treat this season with respect – it is going to be very different with the Europa League and there are a lot more games," he added.

"But I'm sure the manager will have his plans for that challenge ready, and I'm looking forward to it."

Martinez sees Barry's midfield axis with 23-year-old James McCarthy as a key component in the make-up of his side.

"It is an exciting time, with us involved in Europe, two domestic cup competitions and the League, so we need a player of Gareth's experience and know-how," said Martinez.

"We enjoyed having him as a loan player, but we will be enjoying having him even more knowing he is an Everton player."

Everton

2013-14 player stats	
Most goals:	Romelu Lukaku 15
Most assists:	Kevin Mirallas 8
Most shots on target:	Romelu Lukaku 44
Most shots off target:	Kevin Mirallas 54
Most red cards:	Tim Howard 1
Most yellow cards:	Gareth Barry 10
Free-kicks won:	Ross Barkley 65
Defensive clearances:	Sylvain Distin 290

Goodison Park	
Capacity	40,158
Record (v Liverpool, 1948)	78,299

2013-14 team stats	
Shots on target	195
Shots off target	367
Corners	251
Hit woodwork	11
Yellow cards	55
Red cards	1
Penalties awarded	3/3
Penalties conceded	6

2013-14 Premier League						
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
5th	38	21	9	8	61	39 72

### FAN'S VIEW

Roberto Martinez was a breath of fresh air last season – but now we need to go again to take the next step into the Champions League. Signing Gareth Barry permanently is a step in the right direction.

– Nick Stevenson

**STAN JAMES ODDS**  
Everton to finish in the top four **5-1**



**MANAGER**  
Roberto Martinez



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**EVERTON: 100/1\***



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# Club-by-club verdict

## Arsenal

Arsene Wenger's side finally delivered a long-overdue trophy when they beat Hull City to win the FA Cup in May. Wenger hopes his squad, bolstered by the summer addition of Alexis Sanchez and with record-signing Mesut Ozil finally up to speed, can now kick on and last the distance in the Premier League title race, but the Gunners will again find the going tough against their big-spending rivals.



**Key man:**  
Mesut Ozil

**Players in:** Alexis Sanchez (Barcelona, £30m), Mathieu Debuchy (Newcastle United, £12m), Callum Chambers (Southampton, undisclosed)

**Players out:** Bacary Sagna (Manchester City, free), Lukasz Fabianski (Swansea City, free), Nicklas Bendtner (released), Park Ju-young (released), Thomas Eisfeld (Fulham, undisclosed), Chuba Akpom (Coventry, loan)

## Aston Villa

Villa have failed to kick on under Paul Lambert, who has been hamstrung by lack of investment from wantaway owner Randy Lerner and troubled by backroom issues. However, he has the nucleus of a promising side, and once things are settled off the field, expect some more solid performances boosted by Villa's lightning front line, which should see them steer clear of another relegation scrap.



**Key man:**  
Christian Benteke

**Players in:** Joe Cole (West Ham, free), Philippe Senderos (Valencia, free), Kieran Richardson (Fulham, undisclosed)

**Players out:** Nathan Delfouneso (released), Marc Albrighton (Leicester City, free), Jordan Bowery (Doncaster, loan), Michael Drennan (Portsmouth, loan), Gary Gardner (Sheff Weds, loan)

## Burnley

Sean Dyche's men drew plaudits for the way they secured promotion after five years away, but staying up will be a whole new ball game. Team spirit can only take them so far, and it remains to be seen whether marksmen Danny Ings and Sam Vokes can cut it in the top flight. Could be a long battle, but expect a well-drilled side to put up more than a few good fights along the way.



**Key man:**  
Danny Ings

**Players in:** Michael Kightly (Stoke, undisclosed), Steven Reid (West Brom, free), Marvin Sordell (Bolton, undisclosed), Matt Gilks (Blackpool, free), Matt Taylor (West Ham, free), Lucas Jutkiewicz (Middlesbrough, £1.5m)

**Players out:** Chris Baird (West Brom, free), Junior Stanislas (Bournemouth, free), David Edgar (Birmingham, free)

## Crystal Palace

Manager of the Year Tony Pulis performed a minor miracle to keep Crystal Palace up and, in the end, with plenty to spare. However, his second season is likely to be even more of a challenge, but one you would expect the former Stoke boss to meet head on. The Eagles will certainly be well-organised again and, with some added goal threat, could cause teams plenty of problems to secure another mid-table finish.



**Key man:**  
Mile Jedinak

**Players in:** Frazier Campbell (Cardiff, £900,000), Scott Dann (Blackburn, undisclosed), Brede Hangeland (Fulham, free), Chris Kettings (Blackpool, free)

**Players out:** Kagisho Dikgacoi (Cardiff City, free), Danny Gabbidon & Aaron Wilbraham (released), Neil Alexander (Hearts, free), Jose Campana (Sampdoria, undisclosed), Dean Moxey (Bolton, free)

## Everton

Former Wigan boss Roberto Martinez showed he could make the step up in his first season at the club, although was unable to eventually get Everton back in the top four despite the best efforts of on-loan Chelsea forward Romelu Lukaku. While they may well come up short in the League again, the cup competitions are a genuine prospect for success. Oh, and watch out for a certain young Mr Barkley.

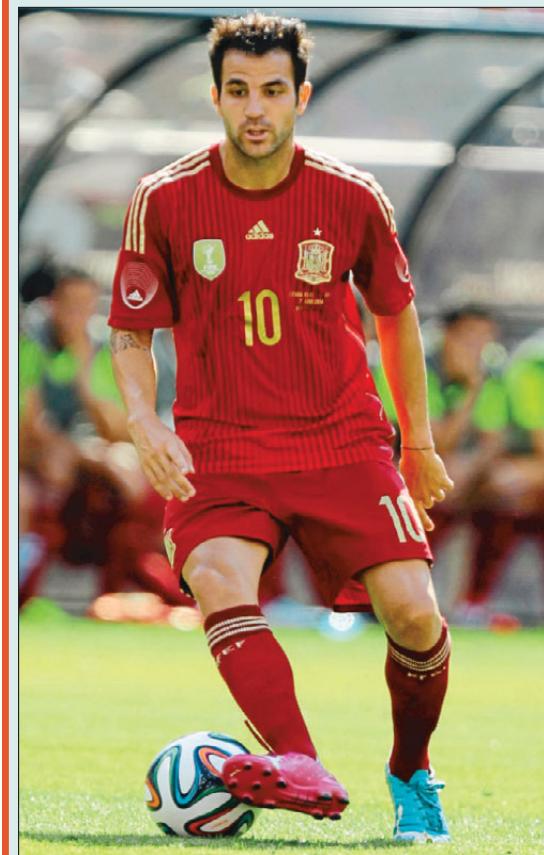


**Key man:**  
Ross Barkley

**Players in:** Romelu Lukaku (Chelsea, £28m), Gareth Barry (Manchester City, £1m), Muhammed Basic (Fenerbahce, undisclosed), Brendan Galloway (MK Dons, undisclosed)

**Players out:** Hallam Hope (Bury, loan), Matthew Pennington (Tranmere, loan), Apostolos Vellios (Blackpool, loan)

## Chelsea



## Hull City

Despite some off-field issues over the club's name, Hull delivered on the pitch as Steve Bruce's side not only maintained their top-flight status but also came within touching distance of beating Arsenal in the FA Cup final. New challenges lie ahead in the Europa League, and Bruce knows his squad will have to dig deep to sustain their own high standards to avoid being dragged into the relegation scrap.



**Key man:** Tom Huddlestone

**Players in:** Jake Livermore (Spurs, £8m), Robert Snodgrass (Norwich, £7m), Tom Ince (Blackpool, undisclosed), Karim Rossi (Stoke, free), Harry Maguire (Sheff Utd £2.5m), Andrew Robertson (Norwich City £2.9m).

**Players out:** Matty Fryatt (Forest, free), Abdoulaye Faye (released), Robert Koren (released)

## Leicester City

The Foxes might have swept all before them in the Championship, but a long-awaited return to the elite will prove a different battle. Nigel Pearson will have his side organised, and the addition of Matthew Upson will bring some experience, with much depending on whether David Nugent can take his goals to the highest level. Fail to do so, added with some flaky defending, and Leicester will be in trouble.



**Key man:**  
David Nugent

**Players in:** Matt Upson (Brighton, free), Marc Albrighton (Aston Villa, free), Leonardo Ulloa (Brighton, £7m), Jack Barmby (Man Utd, free), Ben Hamer (Charlton, free)

**Players out:** Zak Whitbread (Derby, free), Lloyd Dyer (Watford, free), Sean St Ledger (released), Neil Danns (Bolton, free), Kevin Phillips (retired)

Despite his rhetoric about little horses, Jose Mourinho knows Chelsea would have won the League last season but for slip-ups against teams they should have put away. The striker issue has been addressed with the signing of Diego Costa, while Cesc Fabregas (above) will bring dynamism to midfield. Expect them to push City close, and Mourinho not to make the same costly mistakes.



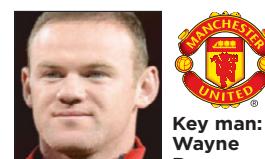
**Key man:**  
Diego Costa

**Players in:** Cesc Fabregas (Barcelona, £27m), Diego Costa (Atletico Madrid, £32m), Mario Pasalic (Hajduk Split, £2.4m), Filipe Luis (Atletico Madrid, undisclosed), Didier Drogba (Galatasaray, free)

**Players out:** David Luiz (PSG, £40m), Ashley Cole (Roma, free), Samuel Etio'o, Henrique Hilario, Frank Lampard (all released), Demba Ba (Besiktas, £8m), Romelu Lukaku (Everton, £28m)

## Manchester United

United fans will be hoping Louis Van Gaal can prove an instant success after taking the Netherlands to the semi-finals of the World Cup. The Dutchman will need all his experience for a completely new ball game, but following some decent summer additions, should be able to get the Red Devils firing again and turn Old Trafford back into a fortress as they chase Champions League qualification.



**Key man:**  
Wayne Rooney

**Players in:** Luke Shaw (Southampton, £30m), Ander Herrera (Athletic Bilbao, £28.8m), Vanja Milinkovic (FK Vojvodina, undisclosed)

**Players out:** Rio Ferdinand (QPR, free), Nemanja Vidic (Inter, free), Ryan Giggs (retired), Alexander Buttner (Dynamo Moscow, £4.4m), Federico Macheda (Cardiff, free), Vanja Milinkovic (FK Vojvodina, loan), Patrice Evra (Juventus, £1.2m), Bebe (Benfica, £2.4m), Michael Keane (Blackburn, loan)

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**Newcastle United**

Alan Pardew made as many headlines as his team did last season, so everyone on Tyneside will hope for a smoother campaign. In the end, a top-half finish was secured and if the summer recruits settle quickly and Pardew can let the football be the focus again, better times could be ahead at St James' Park. But if things don't go to plan, they could spiral downwards very quickly. Mike Ashley will be watching.



**Key man:**  
Hatem Ben Arfa

**Players in:** Remy Cabella (Montpellier, £12m), Siem de Jong (Ajax, £6m), Jack Colback (Sunderland, free), Ayoze Perez (Tenerife, £1.5m), Daryl Janmaat (Feyenoord, £5m), Emmanuel Riviere (Monaco, undisclosed), Facundo Ferreyra (Shakhtar Donetsk, loan)

**Players out:** Mathieu Debuchy (Arsenal, £12m), Shola Ameobi (released), Dan Gosling (Bournemouth, free)

**Queens Park Rangers**

Harry Redknapp returned QPR to the top flight at the first time of asking, just, via a dramatic late winner against Derby at Wembley, which probably safeguarded the club's finances. Much will depend on how quickly the squad can adapt again to the hustle and bustle of the Premier League having laboured somewhat in the Championship. Rio Ferdinand's experience will be key.



**Key man:**  
Rio Ferdinand

**Players in:** Rio Ferdinand (Man Utd, free), Steven Caulker (Cardiff, £8m), Ravel Morrison (West Ham, loan)

**Players out:** Yossi Benayoun (Maccabi Haifa, £750,000), Aaron Hughes (Brighton), Andrew Johnson, Stephane Mbia (released), Julio Cesar (Toronto FC, loan), Tom Hitchcock (MK Dons, free), Ji-Sung Park (retired)

**Southampton**

Saints will need to adjust to life after Mauricio Pochettino very quickly to avoid Ronald Koeman's reign turning into a survival battle. Despite the mass summer exodus, the Saints still have a decent squad and, with the additions of Dusan Tadic and Graziano Pelle, should be able to continue the club's development, although another top-10 finish is probably out of reach this season.



**Key man:**  
Jay Rodriguez

**Players in:** Dusan Tadic (FC Twente, £10.9m), Graziano Pelle (Feyenoord, £9m), Roy Bertrand (Chelsea, loan)

**Players out:** Luke Shaw (Man United, £25m), Adam Lallana (Liverpool, £25m), Rickie Lambert (Liverpool, £4m), Jonathan Forte (released), Calum Chambers (Arsenal, undisclosed), Guly (released), Andy Robinson (Bolton, loan), Danny Fox (Nottingham Forest, free)

**Stoke City**

Many expected Stoke to struggle last season following the departure of Tony Pulis, but Mark Hughes' new-look side eventually found their way to a deserved top-half finish. Continued development, though, will be a harder job following a transition season, but with some promising summer additions - Bojan Krkic is particularly eye-catching - Stoke should again stay out of trouble.



**Key man:**  
Bojan Krkic

**Players in:** Bojan Krkic (Barcelona, £3m), Steve Sidwell (Fulham, free), Phil Bardsley (Sunderland, free), Mame Biram Diouf (Hannover, free), Dionatan Teixeira (Banska Bystrica, undisclosed)

**Players out:** Michael Kightly (Burnley, undisclosed), Matthew Etherington (released), Lucas Dawson (Carlisle, loan), Jack Butland (Leeds, loan)

**Manchester City**

After finally proving themselves the big horse in the final furlong of the title race, Manuel Pellegrini has continued his quiet building programme with solid summer purchases which will again make City the team to beat. Driven on by Yaya Toure and the goals of Sergio Aguero, don't be surprised if City are champions for the third time in four years. A bigger impact in Europe is high on the agenda.



**Key man:**  
Yaya Toure

**Players in:** Fernando (Porto, £12m), Bacary Sagna (Arsenal, free), Willy Caballero (Malaga, undisclosed), Frank Lampard (New York, loan)

**Players out:** Joleon Lescott (West Brom, free), Costel Pantilimon (Sunderland, free), Gareth Barry (Everton, £1m), Alex Nimely (released), Alex Henshall (Ipswich, loan), Jack Rodwell (Sunderland, undisclosed)

**Sunderland**

Sunderland fans are probably still trying to work out just how Gus Poyet managed to keep them up last season, but after having come good with such a late escape, no one at the Stadium of Light will want to go through such nerve-shredding drama again. Much will depend on how the players bond and whether Connor Wickham can find his goals touch again, but Poyet will be determined to get more consistency.



**Key man:**  
Connor Wickham

**Players in:** Billy Jones (West Brom, free), Costel Pantilimon (Man City, free), Jordi Gomez (Wigan, free), Patrick van Aanholt (Chelsea, undisclosed), Jack Rodwell (Manchester City, undisclosed)

**Players out:** Phil Bardsley (Stoke, free), Craig Gardner (West Brom, free), Jack Colback (Newcastle, free), Carlos Cuellar (released), John Egan (Southend, loan), Billy Knott (Bradford, free), Jordan Pickford (Carlisle, loan)

**Swansea City**

Garry Monk's appointment to succeed Michael Laudrup was vindicated as the Swans found some end-of-season form to pull clear of trouble. However, despite a couple of decent summer additions, the new campaign could prove to be severely testing for the Welsh club, and fans' favourite Monk may well find his position under scrutiny should results prove difficult to come by early on.



**Key man:**  
Ashley Williams

**Players in:** Lukasz Fabianski (Arsenal, free), Bafetimbi Gomis (Lyon, undisclosed), Stephen Kingsley (Falkirk, undisclosed), Marvin Emnes (Middlesbrough, £1.5m), Gylfi Sigurdsson (Spurs, undisclosed), Jefferson Montero (Morelia, undisclosed)

**Players out:** Michu (Napoli, loan), Leroy Lita, Jernade Meade, David Ngog, Darnel Situ (all released), Ben Davies and Michel Vorm (Spurs, undisclosed), Alejandro Pozuelo (Rayo Vallecano, undisclosed)

**Tottenham Hotspur**

Spurs fans will be hoping Mauricio Pochettino can bring the type of football he used at Southampton. The target is to break back into the top four and then close down rivals Arsenal. The nucleus of a strong squad is there, one which will be stretched by the Europa League. The new boss's biggest job will be keeping everyone happy if things don't go to plan, especially hard-to-please chairman Daniel Levy.



**Key man:**  
Andros Townsend

**Players in:** Ben Davies and Michel Vorm (Swansea, undisclosed), Eric Dier (Sporting Lisbon, £4m)

**Players out:** Jake Livermore (Hull, £8m), Heurelho Gomes (Watford, free), Gylfi Sigurdsson (Swansea, undisclosed), Jermain Defoe (Toronto FC, undisclosed), Kevin Stewart (Liverpool, free)

**West Bromwich Albion**

New manager Alan Irvine is determined to make the most of his opportunity and prove he was not second choice after Tim Sherwood. A couple of promising summer signings may struggle to improve on what was a poor campaign when they only just avoided the drop. May be a long season ahead, but the Baggies have bounced back from tougher times before to prove the doubters wrong.



**Key man:**  
Stephane Sessegnon

**Players in:** Joleon Lescott (Man City, free), Brown Ideye (Dynamo Kiev, £10m), Craig Gardner (Sunderland, free), Chris Baird (Burnley, free), Andre Wisdom (Liverpool, season loan), Sebastien Pocognoli (Hannover, undisclosed fee), Cristian Gamboa (Rosenborg, undisclosed), Jason Davidson (Heracles, undisclosed)

**Players out:** Billy Jones (Sunderland, free), Liam Ridgewell (Portland, free), Steven Reid (Burnley, free), Zoltan Gera (released)

**West Ham United**

Sam Allardyce knows last season's inconsistencies cannot be repeated, but has been given the backing of the board this summer in the transfer market. The addition of attacking coach Teddy Sheringham should help turn those disappointing home draws into wins to keep the fans happy. Another mid-table finish is achievable, but if things don't go well early on, there could well be changes by Christmas.



**Key man:**  
Enner Valencia

**Players in:** Enner Valencia (Pachuca, £12m), Cheikhou Kouyate (Anderlecht, undisclosed), Mauro Zarate (Velez Sarsfield, undisclosed), Aaron Creswell (Ipswich, £3.75m), Diego Poyet (Charlton, compensation fee), Carl Jenkinson (Arsenal, loan)

**Players out:** Jon Cole (Aston Villa, free), Jack Collison, Alou Diarra, George McCartney & Jordan Spence (released)



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# Newcomers

## Burnley



Turf Moor

Capacity 22,546  
Record (v Huddersfield Town, 1924) 54,775

2013-14 Championship						
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
2nd	46	26	15	5	72	93

2013-14 player stats	
Most goals: Danny Ings	21
Most assists: Kieran Trippier	13
Most shots on target: Danny Ings	51
Most shots off target: Danny Ings	88
Most red cards: Duff, Heaton	1
Most yellow cards: Dean Marney	10
Free-kicks won: Dean Marney	56
Defensive clearances: Jason Shackell	447

2013-14 team stats	
Shots on target	213
Shots off target	411
Corners	242
Hit woodwork	9
Yellow cards	50
Red cards	2
Penalties awarded	6/5
Penalties conceded	4

**FAN'S VIEW**  
Staying up will be a tall order, but with a disciplined squad, who knows? Improving on 2009/10, when top-class players tore our defence apart, would prove that we've made huge strides.

- Claire Ennis

**STAN JAMES ODDS**  
Burnley to finish bottom of the league 7-4



**MANAGER**  
Sean Dyche

# We mean business!

Check out the latest odds on Burnley surviving - Page 24

Dyche determined to have one of the fittest and most organised teams in the top flight as Burnley look to defy the odds

by Liam Blackburn

IN the post-match press conference following the win that sealed Burnley's promotion last April, Sean Dyche asked reporters to refrain from asking questions about their Barclays Premier League chances.

The former Watford boss wanted to reflect on a season of triumph rather than hear how his team would be written off in the top flight.

Upsetting the odds is nothing new to the Clares, though. After all, what their thin squad managed last season was nothing short of miraculous.

They lost Charlie Austin, who scored 45 goals in 90 games for the club, two days before their campaign began, used the joint-fewest players in the division and only spent money in the transfer market once in Dyche's first 19 months at the helm.

Yet they remained in the Championship's upper reaches throughout to earn the right to join English football's elite.

It is, therefore, unsurprising that their manager pays little attention to pre-season predictions. "We know that we were written off probably one minute after we won promotion last year," said Dyche.

"In a weird sense, that underdog spirit of 'little old Burnley' can bring a freedom to it. The expectation will be lower than many teams that have ever been in the Premier League, and that can be a weapon for us.

"It can give the players the freedom to go and perform.

"We enjoyed that freedom last year when there was not that expectation, particularly early in the season. We relaxed with it and we used it to our advantage. We'll have to look at that again." The Clares'



success under Dyche has been built on a strong team ethic and incredible work rate; the type of attributes which helped so-called minnows perform above expectations at this summer's World Cup in Brazil.

It also helps that they had a strike partnership of Danny Ings and Sam Vokes which clicked to the tune of 47 goals.

As was the case in 2009, when Burnley last reached the top table, the club's board have been prudent in their summer spending.

Dyche has focused on acquiring players with vast top-flight experience, bringing former Bolton utility man Matt Taylor and former Blackburn defender Steven Reid to Turf Moor, while handing the long-serving Michael Duff a new deal to take him past a decade with the east Lancashire

club. Marvin Sordell and Lukas Jutkiewicz bolster Burnley's attacking options, with a knee injury likely to keep Vokes from reuniting with Ings until Christmas.

Those new recruits have quickly discovered that much of Burnley's success throughout last season was attributed to the hard miles they put in during pre-season.

Dyche's men, who enhanced their fitness last summer by lugging tyres around a pitch in Cork, will again aim to be fitter than everyone else come August 16.

"There's no doubt we're going to be one of the fittest teams in the League, that's for sure, and that can go a long way to getting results in the Premier League," said Reid, who signed on a free following his release from West Brom. "If

you're the fittest in the League and you're well-organised, you've got half a chance of having a successful season."

Any success in the opening few fixtures may be hard to come by after the Clares were handed a baptism of fire, with Chelsea and Manchester United the first two visitors to Turf Moor.

Then there is a Christmas programme which appears far from merry, pitting Burnley against Tottenham, Liverpool and Manchester City in the space of nine days.

The Clares' last top-flight adventure, marred by boss Owen Coyle's decision to abandon ship for Bolton, spanned just 38 games.

Dyche knows the predictions suggest a similar one-year stay is in the offing, but that suits him just fine.



*If you're the fittest in the League and you're organised, you've got half a chance*

- Steven Reid



**BURNLEY: 5000/1\***



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# Newcomers



Leonardo Ulloa settles into Leicester's ranks after signing from Brighton (inset)

# Ulloa on the up

By Sean Taylor

LEICESTER are back in the Premier League after a decade-long absence and the club's Thai owners have ambitious plans for the Foxes.

The Srivaddhanaprabha family aim to bring European football to the King Power Stadium and want their team to be challenging for a top-five finish within three years.

And chairman Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha insists they are not afraid to spend the money to make it happen.

Speaking in Bangkok in May during Leicester's end-of-season trip to Thailand, he said: "Playing in the Premier League will be another challenging task for the team and the players, but we have plans."

"We want to stay in the Premier League as long as possible, but we won't take the huge leap to challenge the League's top five clubs immediately."

"Do we have a chance to beat them? Yes, we have, but I think we need to establish our foothold in the League first and then think about our next step."

"It will take a huge amount of money, possibly 10 billion Thai Baht (approximately £182million), to get there, but that doesn't put us off. I am asking for three years, and

## Ambitious Foxes set out their stall with club record signing

we'll be there. It will be a difficult task, but we have to try to do it."

Breaking the club's record transfer fee to sign Argentine striker Leonardo Ulloa from Brighton is an indication of the Srivaddhanaprabha family's intent.

Ulloa has impressed during his 18 months in England after joining the Seagulls from Spanish side Almeria, scoring 26 goals in 58 appearances in all competitions.

His arrival saw Leicester smash the £5million paid for Ade Akinbiyi in 2000 and brought to an end manager

Nigel Pearson's pursuit of a player he has admired for some time. "We identified Leo as a player that could help us move forward quite some time ago," said Pearson.

"He complements the forwards we already have and his attributes broaden the options available to us, which will be important this season. I'm delighted we've been able to add him to the squad."

"I'm sure he will have a great deal to offer us."

Leicester enjoyed a hugely successful campaign last season, securing promotion with six matches to spare

before clinching the Championship title with an away win at Bolton on April 22.

The Foxes achieved it with 31 victories and 102 points – both club records.

But all promoted teams need strengthening and, along with Ulloa, Pearson has also brought in defender Matthew Upson, goalkeeper Ben Hamer, midfielder Jack Barmby and winger Marc Albrighton.

Perhaps just as important, however, is Pearson managing to keep his title-winning squad together this summer.

The Foxes' strike-force of David Nugent and Jamie Vardy managed 36 League goals between them, while a solid spine to the team saw the likes of goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel, defender Wes Morgan and midfielder Danny Drinkwater play a key part in the club keeping 18 clean sheets last season.

In fact, Schmeichel, Morgan and Nugent, together with midfielder Matty James and academy products Liam Moore and Jeffrey Schlupp, have all signed extended contracts.

Leicester have been dealt a baptism of fire on their Premier League return with matches against Everton, Chelsea, Arsenal and Manchester United among their opening fixtures.

Can Palace build on their dream season? Page 23

# Redknapp vows to learn from wasteful ways

By Andy Sims

QPR are back in the Premier League hopefully a little wiser for their chastening experience last time around.

Bobby Zamora's last-gasp Wembley winner against Derby in the play-off final secured promotion a year after Rangers tumbled out of the top flight following two turbulent seasons.

The Hoops' demise was put down to a host of marquee signings, such as Jose Bosingwa, Park Ji-sung, Julio Cesar, Chris Samba and Djibril Cisse, who failed to live up to their reputations and justify their sky-high wages.

Chairman Tony Fernandes has since admitted he was "exploited" by agents.

Boss Harry Redknapp, who was left with an unhappy dressing room and an unbalanced squad, insists the lessons have been learned.

"We are determined not to make those mistakes again," said Redknapp.

"I think Tony and the board have learned from that so we have got to make sure this time, as best we can, we make the right decisions and get the right characters in here."

"We don't want people who are going to come here just for the money and not be interested in the club. We want people who genuinely want to come here and play and do well for us."

"Staying in the Premier League would be a good season, it's a tough division

and we have to get back in there and stay in there.

"This year is more stressful than last year, trying to get a team together to stay in this league. This year we have to put a team together and it's exciting. If I can get the players in I am trying to get we'll be okay, we'll do well."

The signing of Rio Ferdinand, inset, does not exactly conform to this new ethos, nor does the re-signing of Zamora. But the days of fat contracts have gone – Ferdinand penned a one-year deal and Zamora, whose £120million

Wembley goal means he has earned the club far more than he has taken out of it, is understood to be on significantly reduced terms.

Meanwhile the arrival of England prospect Steven Caulker from Cardiff is a refreshing move, bringing in a young, hungry player eager to impress.

Skipper Clint Hill has been retained, a nod to his undeniable influence off the pitch as much as his performances on it.

The long-serving defender has seen it all before having been a member of Rangers' previous promotion-winning squad.

"I think we have learned the hard way," he admitted.

"Unfortunately, certain people took advantage of us. As a club, we have learned from that, so we will be more strict and will pay due diligence to the players we do sign."



2013-14 player stats	2013-14 team stats						2013-14 team stats
	Shots on target	Shots off target	Corners	Hit woodwork	Yellow cards	Red cards	
Most goals: David Nugent	20						Shots on target
Most assists: David Nugent	13						Shots off target
Most shots on target: David Nugent	46						Corners
Most shots off target: Anthony Knockaert	84						Hit woodwork
Most red cards: James Konchesky	1						Yellow cards
Most yellow cards: Jamie Vardy	8						Red cards
Free-kicks won: Danny Drinkwater	47						Penalties awarded
Defensive clearances: Wes Morgan	381						Penalties conceded
2013-14 Championship							
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
1st	46	31	9	6	83	43	200

2013-14 player stats	2013-14 team stats						2013-14 team stats
	Shots on target	Shots off target	Corners	Hit woodwork	Yellow cards	Red cards	
Most goals: Charlie Austin	17						Shots on target
Most assists: David Hoilett	5						Shots off target
Most shots on target: Charlie Austin	41						Corners
Most shots off target: Charlie Austin	64						Hit woodwork
Most red cards: Four players	1						Yellow cards
Most yellow cards: Joey Barton	12						Red cards
Free-kicks won: Joey Barton	56						Penalties awarded
Defensive clearances: Clint Hill	318						Penalties conceded
2013-14 Championship							
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
4th	46	23	11	12	60	44	80

2013-14 player stats	2013-14 team stats						2013-14 team stats
	Shots on target	Shots off target	Corners	Hit woodwork	Yellow cards	Red cards	
Most goals: James	1						Shots on target
Most assists: James	1						Shots off target
Most shots on target: James	41						Corners
Most shots off target: James	64						Hit woodwork
Most red cards: James	1						Yellow cards
Most yellow cards: James	12						Red cards
Free-kicks won: James	56						Penalties awarded
Defensive clearances: James	318						Penalties conceded
2013-14 Championship							
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
4th	46	23	11	12	60	44	80

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LEICESTER: 5000/1\*



QUEENS PARK RANGERS: 5000/1\*



QPR to stay in the Premier League 1-3

## Club focus

More clubs in focus

## Tottenham



White Hart Lane

Capacity	36,230
Record (v Sunderland, 1938)	75,038

2013-14 Premier League						
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
6th	38	21	6	11	55	51

2013-14 player stats	
Most goals: Emmanuel Adebayor	11
Most assists: Christian Eriksen	8
Most shots on target: Paulinho	24
Most shots off target: Paulinho	48
Most red cards: Younes Kaboul	2
Most yellow cards: Michael Dawson	7
Free-kicks won: Danny Rose	43
Defensive clearances: Michael Dawson	263

2013-14 team stats	
Shots on target	189
Shots off target	398
Corners	230
Hit woodwork	8
Yellow cards	66
Red cards	4
Penalties awarded	6/5
Penalties conceded	5

## FAN'S VIEW

I've yet to be convinced that Mauricio Pochettino is going to be any better than Tim Sherwood, but we'll see. It's worrying Emmanuel Adebayor had to miss the tour to the States with malaria. I hope it's not an omen!

- Wilf Peters

## STAN JAMES ODDS

Tottenham to finish in the top six **2-5**



## MANAGER

Mauricio Pochettino

# New Spurs boss has reasons to believe

By Tom Allnutt

SUCH has been the relentlessness of organised chaos at Tottenham for the past 12 months, it is tempting to view Mauricio Pochettino's prospects at White Hart Lane with pity rather than optimism.

Since sanctioning the world-record transfer of Gareth Bale in the heady days of August 2013, it has been a sorry tale of unsettled signings, two sacked head coaches, a handful of drubbings and, ultimately, another season of Champions League exile.

Pochettino, snatched from Southampton to herald Tottenham's latest new dawn, could be forgiven for feeling nervous.

But scratch beneath the surface of upheaval and there are some reasons for the new head coach to be cautiously optimistic.

Pochettino has inherited a squad that lacks confidence, direction and discipline, but there is undoubtedly talent within the Spurs ranks which needs to be cajoled and maximised rather than disregarded.

Erik Lamela is the most pertinent example of an under-performing bunch that includes Roberto Soldado, Paulinho, Jan Vertonghen, Nacer Chadli and Younes Kaboul.

Rejuvenating record signing Lamela into the player that scored 15 goals in Serie A two seasons ago will be high on Pochettino's priority list.

A combination of poor form, cold man-management and injury meant Lamela has failed to adapt to life in England so far, but there is hope, particularly from the Spurs board, that Pochettino's Argentine connection can bring the best out of the £26m man.

"We expect a lot from him, he's an unbelievable player," said Pochettino after Lamela scored twice in a pre-season game against Toronto.

"He needs to show us that he deserves to play, but at the moment we are happy with his performance."

At 22, Lamela forms part of a promising group of youngsters at White Hart Lane, whom Pochettino will be expected to nurture.

Christian Eriksen, also 22, was perhaps the team's most



exciting performer last season, and the Dane delivered moments of brilliance as the season wore on.

There is also Andros Townsend, 23, Nabil Bentaleb, 19 and Harry Kane, 20, who will all be hoping to make similar strides under Pochettino as the likes of Luke Shaw and Jay Rodriguez did at St Mary's.

If the head coach's role at Spurs is to revive rather than recruit, Pochettino may be well-suited.

The Argentine's record in the transfer market at Southampton was mixed, but he was popular

among the players, who subscribed to his high-intensity training sessions and believed in his methods.

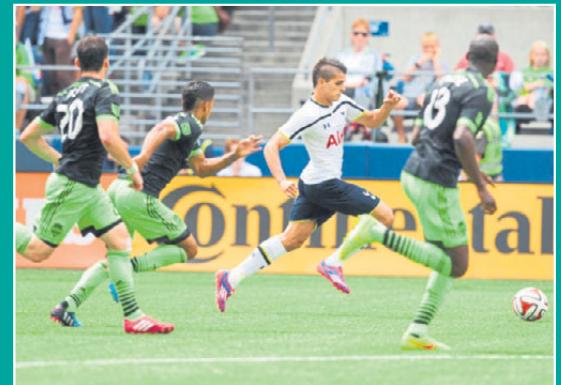
Whether the Tottenham squad submit so wholeheartedly to an inexperienced coach who has never finished higher than eighth in a league, will be decisive.

As with any boss at White Hart Lane these days, there is also the support of the board to ponder. Pochettino made an instant impression at Southampton, but should Tottenham falter in the early part of the campaign, Daniel



We expect a lot from him, he's an unbelievable player. He needs to show us that he deserves to play

- Mauricio Pochettino on Spurs' record signing Erik Lamela



Levy's resolve will be tested. There will surely be some room for manoeuvre on results so long as the team shows cohesion, progress and, crucially, an attacking brand of football that was so painfully absent under Andre Villas-Boas.

Spurs have already bolstered their squad with the signings of left-back Ben Davies and goalkeeper Michel Vorm from Swansea, and it would seem unlikely Levy's transfer dealings will end there.

The club will need a centre half if, as expected, either

Michael Dawson or Vlad Chiriches are sold, while another forward is also wanted.

There will be no wholesale changes, however.

The club's plans to begin work on a new 58,000-capacity stadium next to their current home were given the green light earlier this month, and there is a growing need for stability to absorb the financial implications that will bring.

Pochettino will be well aware, however, that stability for a Tottenham head coach comes with many strings attached.



**TOTTENHAM: 50/1\***



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## Club focus



I'm strong, but I don't want to die,  
I don't want to have a heart attack

# What a difference a year makes

Poyet determined to avoid another season of turmoil

By Damian Spellman

TWELVE months ago, Sunderland embarked upon the new Premier League season having headed boldly in a new direction they hoped would bring lasting success.

Within weeks, the club was in utter disarray once again with yet another manager having been shown the door, a director of football soon to follow him and the squad they had assembled with indecent haste finding itself firmly entrenched in a relegation fight.

That was the mess Gus Poyet inherited in October when he was handed the remit of keeping the Black Cats in the top flight. Ultimately, he was to achieve his aim, but not before he and his players had reached – and in the eyes of many, gone beyond – the point of no return.

A year on, the 46-year-old Uruguayan is preparing for his first full campaign having arrived at something of a watershed.

What Sunderland achieved at the end of last season, when they recorded unlikely victories at Chelsea and Manchester United after coming within

seconds of winning at Manchester City, was little short of remarkable.

However, that astonishing run-in served to disguise the fact that, for the previous 32 games, they had simply not been good enough with the brave new world created by Paolo di Canio and Roberto de Fanti proving unfit for purpose.

Owner Ellis Short has spent much of his tenure to date attempting to find a formula to end the club's seemingly perennial battle for survival, and it is a quest which remains in progress.

Successive managers have tried and failed to bring that elusive stability to the Stadium of Light, and Poyet, in his short time on Wearside, has developed his own theory. He said: "I think sometimes when things don't work, it's natural you change the manager and get another and if it doesn't work again, you have a chance to change the manager again.

"And then the third time, I'd like to think about it because I don't think it's the manager any more when it's four or five."

Poyet's assertion may well hold water – he is the sixth permanent occupant of his post in less than six years, although in his case, it carries the title of head coach.

That is a fact which clearly rankles with him – he has mentioned it on more than one occasion – but it is the way Short wants to go with sporting director Lee Congerton presiding over recruitment in consultation with Poyet.

But whatever the politics, Sunderland have to get it right this time after adopting a quantity rather than quality-led approach last summer which saw 14 bodies drafted in, but few of them to any great effect.

By the time Poyet was asked to bail out a rapidly sinking ship, the folly of that recruitment drive had become all too apparent – with Vito Mannone and Fabio Borini the most notable exceptions – and that left Poyet firefighting for much of the season.

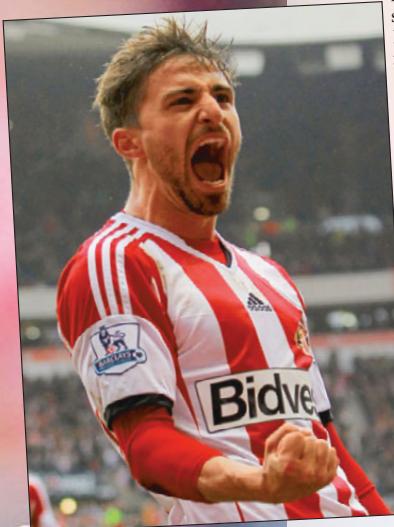
That is a situation he is desperate not to repeat this time around. The former Brighton boss said as he looked back on his great escape: "Can I go another year like these seven months? No."

"I'm strong, but I don't want to die, I don't want to have a heart attack, I don't want to lose any more hair than I have lost already."

"I want to have a season where I can relax and see my team playing football week in, week out."

With a pre-season under his belt fuelled by the euphoria of an unexpected feat of escapology, Poyet will feel he has a better chance of further instilling his method in his players.

But his memory is long enough to remember the days when his team could neither score goals, nor keep them out at the other end in the weeks and months immediately prior to their fightback, and his ability to address those issues will prove key.



Sunderland head coach Gus Poyet and, inset above, striker Fabio Borini, one of the few successes from the previous regime's signing spree

## Sunderland

2013-14 player stats	
Most goals: Adam Johnson	8
Most assists: Adam Johnson	5
Most shots on target: Fabio Borini	21
Most shots off target: Fabio Borini	43
Most red cards: Wes Brown	3
Most yellow cards: Phil Bardsley	9
Free-kicks won: Fabio Borini	59
Defensive clearances: John O'Shea	176

## Stadium of Light

Capacity	49,000
Record (v Derby County, 1933)	75,118

2013-14 team stats	
Shots on target	137
Shots off target	354
Corners	188
Hit woodwork	9
Yellow cards	70
Red cards	7
Penalties awarded	6/6
Penalties conceded	2

## 2013-14 Premier League

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
14th	38	10	8	20	41	60

## FAN'S VIEW

I really hope we have learned the lessons of Paolo Di Canio's disastrous spell and bring in quality rather than quantity. The City keeper Costel Pantilimon looks a good signing at least.

– Simon Edwards

## STAN JAMES ODDS

Sunderland to finish in the top 10

11-4



SUNDERLAND: 2500/1\*



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# Club focus



Newcastle newcomers (from left) Siem de Jong, Remy Cabella and Emmanuel Riviere



## Midlands challenge

### Newcastle



St James' Park  
Capacity 52,387  
Record (v Chelsea, 1930) 68,386

#### 2013-14 Premier League

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
10th	38	15	4	19	43	59

#### 2013-14 player stats

Most goals: Loic Remy	14
Most assists: Moussa Sissoko	6
Most shots on target: Loic Remy	30
Most shots off target: Loic Remy	58
Most red cards: Six players	1
Most yellow cards: Cheick Tiote	10
Free-kicks won: Cheick Tiote	55
Defensive clearances: Mike Williamson	265

#### 2013-14 team stats

Shots on target	177
Shots off target	400
Corners	190
Hit woodwork	9
Yellow cards	54
Red cards	6
Penalties awarded	3/2
Penalties conceded	5

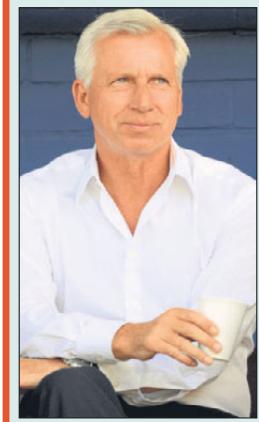
#### FAN'S VIEW

We should be grateful for Mike Ashley's investment, but you always get the feeling another embarrassment is just around the corner. I can't see Pardew surviving another disappointing spell.

– Wayne McManus

**STAN JAMES ODDS**  
Newcastle to finish in the top half

11-8



**MANAGER**  
Alan Pardew

# Pardew rollercoaster ready to ride again

by Damian Spellman

ALAN PARDEW has needed to develop a thick skin during his time at St James' Park.

The 53-year-old Newcastle manager arrived on Tyneside in December 2010 in the midst of a popular revolt, as fans furious at predecessor Chris Hughton's summary dismissal vented their anger at owner Mike Ashley and anybody closely connected with his so-called 'Cockney Mafia'.

Pardew found himself in the firing line from the off, but as he delicately negotiated his way through a political minefield, aided in no small part by encouraging results on the pitch, a form of peace finally broke out.

However, as he prepares to embark upon the new campaign, the former Reading, West Ham, Charlton and Southampton boss faces perhaps the biggest challenge of his reign to date to win over a growing band of doubters once again.

Pardew, it seems, has become the focus of fans' understandable frustrations, fuelled by an insipid finish to

last season following a desperate fight against relegation 12 months earlier.

Some of the criticism is perhaps unfair – he has little control over the club's recruitment process, which did not see a single senior player arrive on a permanent deal under Joe Kinnear's ill-fated spell as director of football, despite Yohan Cabaye's big-money move to Paris St Germain in January.

He was let down, too, by his players, who capitulated all too readily with monotonous regularity and were lulled to the point of toothlessness by the France international's exit.

But there is a validity to the arguments of those who question the manager's ability to design a tactical plan to make the most of his squad's strengths and mitigate its weaknesses.

In addition, an ill-advised confrontation with Hull midfielder David Meyler, which earned him a lengthy touchline ban and might have cost him his job, simply added grist to the mill of those who believe his time has come. Pardew was left in little doubt



*I know last season for me personally, it could have gone a lot, lot, lot better and I need to make sure I am better as a manager*

– Alan Pardew

as to the prevailing mood when he last headed for the dug-out at St James' on May 3, when even a 3-0 Premier League victory over Championship-bound Cardiff could not spare him a mauling from the terraces.

He said: "I know last season for me personally, it could have gone a lot, lot, lot better and I need to make sure I am better as a manager next year."

For some, Pardew's goose is already cooked and he is living on borrowed time; for others, an early flurry of summer transfer activity, which resulted in the captures of the likes of Siem de Jong, Remy Cabella and Emmanuel Riviere, has permitted them to allow him the benefit of the doubt, for now at least.

But ultimately, it is Ashley's continued support which matters and, despite a cooling of relations at one point, that remains in place.

However, the mood in general on Tyneside remains rebellious, despite the sportswear magnate's summer investment, and it remains to be seen if the chasm which has opened between the regime and

large sections of the support can be bridged.

Significantly, signing announcements on the club's official website have been accompanied by plugs for season tickets, which remain available long after most have usually been snapped up.

The club's insistence that the Premier League and not the domestic cup competitions is the overwhelming priority remains a bone of contention, and a repeat of last season's 10th-place finish would do little to placate fans who last celebrated genuine success in the 1969 European Fairs Cup.

Pardew, however, remains optimistic despite the pressure on his shoulders.

He said: "It's taken us a while to build and we have had to lose one or two great players along the way, Cabaye in particular. But we always knew that once this summer came, we could make a bigger step, maybe, and hopefully that's reflected in performances."

If that proves to be the case, Pardew might just recover some lost ground. If it does not, the chorus of disapproval will simply increase in volume.



**NEWCASTLE: 1000/1\***



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# Club focus

## Aston Villa



Capacity 42,682  
Record (v Derby County, 1946) 76,588

2013-14 Premier League						
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
15th	38	10	8	20	39	61

2013-14 player stats							
Most goals: Christian Benteke	10	Most assists: Gabriel Agbonlahor	5	Most shots on target: Christian Benteke	23	Most shots off target: Christian Benteke	40
Most red cards: None	0	Most yellow cards: Ciaran Clark	8	Free-kicks won: Fabian Delph	61	Defensive clearances: Nathan Baker	228

2013-14 team stats							
Shots on target	130	Shots off target	300	Corners	166	Hit woodwork	8
Yellow cards	78	Red cards	0	Penalties awarded	4/2	Penalties conceded	6

### FAN'S VIEW

I've got a horrible feeling this is going to be a disastrous season, unless Christian Benteke can get us some goals. Joe Cole's hardly going to set the world alight, although Philippe Senderos should help at the back. - **Pete Loosley**

### STAN JAMES ODDS

Villa to finish among the top 10 clubs 9-4



**MANAGER**  
Paul Lambert

# Cole's bid to fire up Villa's revival

By Phil Medlicott

IN a summer of uncertainty for Aston Villa, Joe Cole has arrived at the club confident they are going in the right direction ahead of the forthcoming season.

The two years Villa have had so far with Paul Lambert as manager have had mixed results. The two years Villa have had so far with Paul Lambert as manager have had mixed results. The two years Villa have had so far with Paul Lambert as manager have had mixed results. The two years Villa have had so far with Paul Lambert as manager have had mixed results.

However, with the Midlands outfit only managing successive 15th-place finishes, questions over that policy have increased as time has gone on and, at the end of last season, Villa's owner Randy Lerner confirmed he had decided to bring his own eight-year tenure to an end by putting the club up for sale.

Despite that announcement, Lerner remains in control, and it appears likely he still will be the start of the new season.

Villa also have only an acting chief executive as the campaign approaches, Robin Russell having stepped in following the news in early July that Paul Faulkner would be departing.

Meanwhile, Lambert has decided that, in terms of both his coaching staff and squad, the addition of more seasoned Premier League campaigners would not go amiss.

Roy Keane (right) has been brought in as the Scot's No.2, and the senior players Villa have recruited this summer to date are defender

Philippe Senderos, wide man Kieran Richardson and Cole.

All have plenty of action in the division under their belts, and former Liverpool and Chelsea man Cole, who has 56 senior England caps, is convinced he will be bringing experience to a side that is on the up.

The 32-year-old said: "There's massive potential. The fact they have been able to survive in the Premier League for the last few years with the young squad they've got, it's a



**EE** There's massive potential. The manager has done great in developing them



**Joe Cole in action for Villa in a pre-season friendly against Mansfield Town**

ruthless league and they've done a good job, those young players.

"I can see the improvement in all of them every time I've played against them.

"The manager has done great in developing them. The whole club has got to take credit for that. They have done well and they will be a better outfit this year. Hopefully I can help them with my experience and try to take us on to the next step."

While the likes of Cole have

been drafted in, there have also been indications that Lambert is ready to give some experienced players previously out of favour under him a chance at Villa this season – players such as defender Alan Hutton, winger Charles N'Zogbia and striker Darren Bent.

Villa fans, crossing their fingers for an improved showing from their club, will be watching keenly to see what those individuals can offer.

They will also be hoping skipper Ron Vlaar can build on an encouraging World Cup as part of the Netherlands defence, and that Belgium striker Christian Benteke, absent from

the tournament in Brazil due to injury, can produce some of the fine form he has in a claret and blue shirt in the past once he returns to action.

Whether Villa do start making clear progress this season very much remains to be seen, but what seems indisputable – and Lambert has said as much – is that the club, given their size, have been in the lower reaches of the division for far too long.



**ASTON VILLA: 2500/1\***



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## Club focus

# All change for Irvine and new-look Baggies

by Phil Medlicott

IT has been out with the old and in with the new at West Brom ahead of the 2014-15 Premier League season, with several developments catching plenty of people by surprise.

It is no real shock in itself that it was deemed considerable change was required this summer for Albion, their last campaign having been hard to describe as anything other than disastrous.

Following on from a record-breaking eighth-placed finish the season before, the Baggies dismissed the man who had guided them there, head coach Steve Clarke, in mid-December on the back of four straight defeats.

At that point, West Brom were 16th, and they ended up 17th after Clarke's replacement, Pepe Mel, oversaw a mere three victories.

Nicolas Anelka's 'quenelle' saga, which led to Albion sacking the striker, only added to the turmoil in a season that also saw two of their other players, Saido Berahino and James Morrison, come to blows on one occasion.

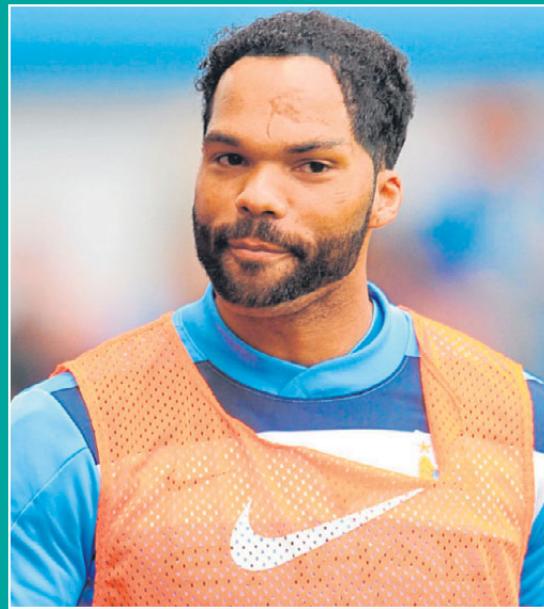
On May 23, by which time the unmourned Mel had already left by mutual consent, chairman Jeremy Peace released a statement in which he said the club had been taking "a long, hard look" at why things had gone wrong.

And plenty of decisions have been taken since then as the Midlands outfit attempt to rejuvenate themselves – some of which have appeared, at the very least, left-field.

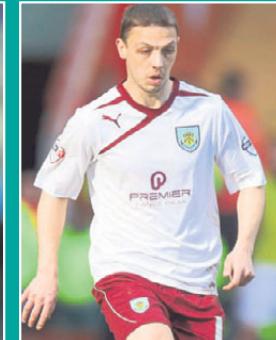
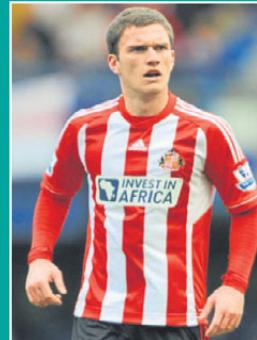
The man West Brom have chosen as Mel's successor is Alan Irvine, handed a 12-month rolling deal.

It is his first top-flight senior management role and his prior experience as a No.1 amounts to stints at Preston and then Sheffield Wednesday, his stay at Hillsborough coming to an end in 2011, when he was axed with the club mid-table in League One.

Like fellow Scot Clarke, Irvine has a lot of time spent on coaching staff at Premier League level on his CV, but the 56-year-old's appointment drew



West Brom have broken their transfer record to sign Brown Ideye (left) from Dynamo Kiev, while Joleon Lescott (above), Craig Gardner (below left) and Chris Baird (right) will bring Premier League experience



a negative response from many Albion fans.

Interestingly, Irvine was on the Baggies' radar as long as five years ago.

He said at his unveiling press conference at The Hawthorns in June: "I don't know whether it had an influence, but it was very close for me back then.

"I was actually here a few months ago doing a presentation for the League Managers Association. I was asked 'what's your biggest

mistake in football?' I said 'not taking this job'. I wasn't going to make that mistake again."

Irvine knows now he has the job that the only way to win over sceptics is by securing positive results and, to that end, he has been remoulding a squad that so far has had six additions this summer.

Joleon Lescott looks like a shrewd acquisition, Craig Gardner and Chris Baird are two more players with a wealth

of Premier League experience and Andre Wisdom has shown some potential.

But Belgium defender Sébastien Pocognoli has arrived as a relatively unknown quantity to English football, as has Nigeria international Brown Ideye, a striker Albion have broken their transfer record to capture.

As the players and the head coach strive to make a good impression, it will be intriguing to see what the coming

campaign brings. Another controversial announcement came in July when the club revealed the home shirt they will be playing in this term – a predominantly white top featuring thin navy pinstripes, rather than the traditional wider stripes of the same colour.

No matter how they fare in comparison, it is fair to say the Baggies of 2014-15 will be in many ways unrecognisable from their predecessors.



*I was asked 'what's your biggest mistake in football?' I said 'not taking this job'. I wasn't going to make that mistake again*

– New West Brom manager Alan Irvine

Swansea, Hull City, Palace, West Ham

## West Brom



The Hawthorns

Capacity	26,272
Record (v Arsenal, 1937)	64,815

### 2013-14 Premier League

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
17th	38	7	15	16	43	59

### 2013-14 player stats

Most goals: Berahino, Sessegnon	5
Most assists: Chris Brunt	5
Most shots on target: Saido Berahino	16
Most shots off target: Stephane Sessegnon	41
Most red cards:	0
Most yellow cards: Jonas Olsson	10
Free-kicks won: Liam Ridgewell	57
Defensive clearances: Jonas Olsson	311

### 2013-14 team stats

Shots on target	140
Shots off target	348
Corners	187
Hit woodwork	4
Yellow cards	67
Red cards	0
Penalties awarded	2/2
Penalties conceded	7

### FAN'S VIEW

I can't see anything but a season of struggle for the Baggies. Alan Irvine seems a decent bloke, but he's hardly got a ton of experience as a manager and his track record isn't good. I just hope I'm wrong.

– Ian Simpson

### STAN JAMES ODDS

To get relegated this season **11-4**



**MANAGER**  
Alan Irvine



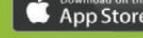
WEST BROM: 5000/1\*



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# Club focus

# Tigers facing Europa burden

By Rory Dollard

AS Hull prepare to build on last year's impressive return to the top flight, they will be guarding against two of football's most common ailments: second season syndrome and Europa League-itis.

It is a curiously common phenomenon for promoted teams to defy expectations in their first year back among the big boys, before slipping back a level at the second attempt.

Just ask Phil Brown, who scored some huge upsets with Hull in 2008-09 before losing the plot, and his job, on the way to relegation the following year.

Steve Bruce has enough Premier League experience and miles on the clock to be confident of guarding against such a fall from grace, but his task is complicated by the dubious benefits of his club's first ever European adventure.

The Tigers booked their place in the Europa League courtesy of being losing

finalists in the FA Cup, but while fans might be eagerly awaiting continental capers, it can be a gruelling addition to the fixture schedule.

While the likes of Tottenham might view the competition as a chance to keep expensively-procured fringe players fit and happy, those with lesser resources can struggle.

Swansea, Stoke, Newcastle and Wigan are among those who have found it hard in recent years to keep league form up to par while also fighting in Europe.

Bruce has already made moves to strengthen his hand, breaking the Tigers' transfer record for the third window in succession by signing former loanee Jake Livermore for keeps on an £8million deal.

Scotland international Robert Snodgrass has also joined for £7million, while Tom Ince shocked football pundits and cultural commentators alike by snubbing Inter Milan for the East Yorkshire life.

## Monk relishing the pressure of his 'dream job'

By Andrew Baldock

GARRY MONK readily admits he has landed a dream job in taking the reins as Swansea City manager.

But the 35-year-old former Swans skipper also accepts he will be "judged every single day" as he prepares to lead the Welsh club into their fourth Premier League campaign.

Monk, who made more than 220 appearances for Swansea during a 10-year playing career in west Wales, was confirmed as full-time boss almost three months ago. He had initially taken over following Michael Laudrup's exit during early February, and succeeded in his primary aim of preserving the club's top-flight status.

A 12th-place finish followed

those of 11th in 2012 and ninth a year later as Swansea completed a hectic campaign that also saw them make their Europa League debut as a result of landing Capital One Cup silverware the previous season.

It has been a busy summer, with Arsenal keeper Lukasz Fabianski, Spurs midfielder Gylfi Sigurdsson, ex-Lyon striker Bafetimbi Gomis, Middlesbrough's Marvin Emnes, and Ecuador winger Jefferson Montero all recruited.

And although Ben Davies, Michel Vorm and Spanish striker Michu have left, prospects look promising for another solid campaign.

"This was a dream of mine and an aim," said Monk. "I thought it would come further down the line, but now it's my

**Swansea City**

### 2013-14 player stats

Most goals: Wilfried Bony	16
Most assists: Pablo Hernandez	7
Most shots on target: Wilfried Bony	35
Most shots off target: Wilfried Bony	69
Most red cards: Chico	2
Most yellow cards: Angel Rangel	8
Free-kicks won: Wilfried Bony	48
Defensive clearances: Ashley Williams	324

### 2013-14 Premier League

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
12th	38	11	9	18	54	42

### 2013-14 team stats

Shots on target	159
Shots off target	336
Corners	226
Hit woodwork	6
Yellow cards	56
Red cards	3
Penalties awarded	4/4
Penalties conceded	4

### STAN JAMES ODDS

Wilfried Bony to be the top goalscorer **20-1**

time to take this chance. I am under no illusions how hard it will be and that I will be judged every single day, but I am willing to do that. It doesn't faze me. I know what I want to

do, and if I do it to the best of my ability I will be happy with that. People doubt us every season, and we have proven people wrong. It's a time when we don't have a point to prove



Our job is to make sure we stay here and keep growing the club

**Jake Livermore** (far left) has turned last season's loan into an £8m permanent move from Spurs, while Tom Ince chose Hull City ahead of a potential move to Inter Milan



as cover for both full-back positions, he emerged as a more reliable option than either Maynor Figueroa or Ahmed Elmohamady and was the only player to stop Curtis Davies claiming a clean sweep at the supporters' group player of the year awards.

Looking ahead to the new season, Rosenior is well aware of the challenge that lies ahead.

"As soon as the fixtures come out you start to get excited but at the same time, you also start to focus on what is to come," he said.

"We don't want to be that team that gets promoted, stays up and then goes back down."

"We want to build this club for the long term. There are a lot of good things happening behind the scenes at this club, like the new academy set-up down at Bishop Burton, and nurturing young players to bring them through."

"This club has only got good things to look forward to."

### FAN'S VIEW

Goals were hard to come by last season and I'm not sure Robert Snodgrass is the answer. At least he should get some decent supply from the wings from the other new-boy Tom Ince. It could be tough going.

– Darren Oliver

### STAN JAMES ODDS

Hull to end the season in the top 10 **4-1**

academy is going to improve and, of course, we need the first team to improve."

One player who knows better than most where Bruce is coming from is full-back Liam Rosenior.

One of the more unheralded members of Hull's promotion-winning squad, he had to fight tooth and nail to pin down a regular place in the side last season. Having started the year

and we become complacent that we might have a problem."

Swansea have recently returned from a two-week trip to the United States, where an intensive training camp also featured two pre-season friendlies, and Monk has no doubt it was a valuable exercise as build-up begins gathering momentum towards a league opener away to Louis van Gaal's Manchester United.

"I've really enjoyed the training and putting the players through their paces," Monk added.

"I've been very hard on them and enjoyed seeing them sweat. The boys know that if they hurt now and then get through the tough periods, they will be fitter for it and in a better place to go into the season."

And Monk's approach to the

role has won acclaim from his assistant boss Pep Clotet, the Barcelona-born coach who has previously worked in various roles at Spanish clubs Espanyol and Malaga.

"Garry Monk is living 24/7 for Swansea City Football Club," he said.

"He is working non-stop and really putting the hours in. He is throwing everything at the job and his hard work, effort and enthusiasm is rubbing off on all aspects of the club."

"He has raised everyone's game and is determined to keep pushing standards up everywhere."

"He wants the fans to be proud of the team and the club. He wants them to enjoy watching the team. It's very important to him."



**SWANSEA: 2500/1\***



**HULL: 5000/1\***



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# Club focus

# Sam faces battle on home front

By Mark Bryans

SAM ALLARDYCE has delved into the transfer market as he looks to improve a fragile relationship with West Ham supporters.

For many fans last season – and in the past – it was not just about West Ham winning games in the Premier League but seeing their team play in an attractive manner.

Allardyce has been fighting against the long-held belief that he employs long-ball, rough and tumble tactics since he first was announced as the Hammers boss in 2011.

Although he guided the club to promotion at the first attempt before leading them to a top-half finish in 2013, he has still to shake those claims.

The much-maligned Allardyce even saw his side jeered off the Upton Park pitch after victory over Hull in March, with banners also unfurled later in the campaign calling for his head.

But Allardyce, who was given the backing of co-owners David Sullivan and David Gold after a number of post-season summits, is now looking ahead to a fourth season at the helm and defender James Collins believes it was correct to stick rather than twist.

“It is great,” said the Wales international. “As soon as the news came out over the summer the lads were delighted. He has done well for the last two years. We weren’t too happy last season, but we finished 13th in the end.

“He is so good, he sets out a plan for the whole season and how many points we need to finish as high as we can and improve on last year.

“Not once has the gaffer ever told us to play direct. It is about



winning football matches. Before every game he works out the best way to win and that is how we go out and play.”

Once his position was secure, Allardyce wasted little time in bringing in new faces to improve on last season’s finish – achieved despite a chronic injury list at the turn of the year and with club-record signing Andy Carroll featuring in only 16 games.

A lack of replacements for the crooked Carroll meant that, while having one of the meanest defences in the League, goalscoring was a major problem. Allardyce will be hoping that has been addressed with the signings of Mauro Zarate and Enner Valencia – the latter brought in after scoring three times for Ecuador at the World Cup – as well as adding former England striker Teddy Sheringham to his coaching staff.

And the arrival of Zarate and Valencia assumed even greater

significance when Carroll’s injury jinx struck again in pre-season.

Last season it was a long-standing heel injury that limited the former Newcastle and Liverpool man’s involvement, and now he has had to have surgery on an ankle problem.

Carroll had travelled with the squad for a pre-season tour of New Zealand, but the club decided they would not risk him in either game there, and after undergoing the operation reports suggested he could be out for up to four months.

The striker tweeted: “Absolutely devastated to be missing the start of the season.”

Elsewhere, the club beat a host of European sides to the signing of Senegal midfielder Cheikhou Kouyate while Aaron Cresswell joins from Ipswich to add defensive competition for places.

All of those names, as well as some of the price tags

involved, show West Ham mean business, although it will also add extra pressure to start the season well.

The Hammers could have easily been led into the new season by a different man had Sullivan and Gold buckled to fan pressure when West Ham were struggling down in 19th at the turn of the year.

The former Bolton and Newcastle boss is likely to come under scrutiny again if the Hammers do not get off to the best of starts, especially as they start the season with a visit from London rivals Tottenham Hotspur, who they beat on three occasions last year.

Even another good showing in the derby clash, as well as ensuing fixtures against Crystal Palace, Southampton and Hull City, may not be enough to turn the tide if the majority of supporters maintain their belief that Allardyce can only win with substance, and not the style they demand.



## FAN’S VIEW

Enner Valencia had better start scoring plenty of goals for us early doors, or it’s going to be curtains for Fat Sam. I really hope it’s not going to be another bad year for us, but I fear the worst.

– Wayne Peters

**STAN JAMES ODDS**  
West Ham to finish in the top 10

9-4

**MANAGER**  
Sam Allardyce

West Ham

## 2013-14 player stats

	2013-14 player stats
Most goals: Kevin Nolan	7
Most assists: Three players	4
Most shots on target: Kevin Nolan	18
Most shots off target: Mohamed Diamé	43
Most red cards: Kevin Nolan	2
Most yellow cards: Noble, Nolan	7
Free-kicks won: Mark Noble	41
Defensive clearances: James Tomkins	280

## Boleyn Ground



Capacity	35,106
Record (v Tottenham, 1970)	42,322

## 2013-14 team stats

	2013-14 team stats
Shots on target	119
Shots off target	303
Corners	189
Hit woodwork	8
Yellow cards	63
Red cards	5
Penalties awarded	2/2
Penalties conceded	6

## 2013-14 Premier League

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
13th	38	11	7	20	40	51



This football club has massively over-achieved

By Tom Allnutt

TONY PULIS has an uncanny knack of exceeding expectations, but this season even the most experienced of over-achievers has a challenge on his hands.

For the first time in the Premier League era, Crystal Palace are facing a second consecutive campaign in the top flight and, for once, fans are daring to dream of more than just survival.

Palace might have been challenging for Europe had the season began when Pulis took charge in November and an 11th-place finish – 12 points clear of the drop – allowed the seeds of optimism to flourish.

Re-wind eight months and the picture is almost unrecognisable. The Eagles languished at the foot of the table, accumulating only seven points from 12 games and fully justifying suspicions they were not ready for the demands of the top level.

“If you look at the stats from when I came in, it shows what a great achievement this season has been,” said Pulis.

“This football club has massively over-achieved and everyone should take great credit. It’s been a great ride.”

The challenge now for Pulis is to get the roller-coaster running again. He has to ensure his players, who rode high on the adrenalin of last season’s great escape, can revive their intensity and refresh their motivations.

The former Stoke boss will also have to manage the supporters, who were unified in their excitement of the team’s renaissance last term but will almost certainly demand more this time.

Pulis will do all he can to insist survival remains the club’s only gauge of success but, going by numbers alone, progress means the top half.

There will also be the routine questions about Pulis’ style of football. Palace’s rejuvenation in the league last season was built on a mean defence that

Pulis set to work his magic yet again

registered 11 clean sheets after Pulis’ arrival and conceded only 13 goals in 13 home games.

Player of the year Julian Speroni, who emerged as one of the outstanding goalkeepers in the division, has signed on for another season, while the well-drilled backline of Joel Ward, Scott Dann, Damien Delaney and Adrian Mariappa all remain.

Ward, who may be shifted to his preferred position on the right should a new left-back be brought in, was another to greatly enhance his reputation, and an England call-up would not be out of the question should he continue to impress.

Perhaps the team would have been given more credit had more chances been converted, and that is an area where Pulis will be hoping his team can take strides.

There are high hopes for Glenn Murray, who scored 30 goals when Palace won promotion but missed the majority of last season through injury, and Marouane Chamakh, perhaps Palace’s most technically-gifted player, and Dwight Gayle, signed for £6million from Peterborough, who ended a stuttering campaign on a high with consecutive doubles in the final two games.

“When I first came to the club Dwight was the marquee signing,” Pulis said in May. “We’d spent a lot of money on him and it looked like he had the weight of the world on his shoulders in lots of respects. He’s become a lot closer to the group and his mates in the dressing room. He didn’t need the pressure, we took that away from him and he’s improved immensely.”



“Pulis will do all he can to insist survival remains the club’s only gauge of success but, going by numbers alone, progress means the top half.

There will also be the routine questions about Pulis’ style of football. Palace’s rejuvenation in the league last season was built on a mean defence that

## 2013-14 player stats

	2013-14 player stats
Most goals: Dwight Gayle, Jason Puncheon	7
Most assists: Yannick Bolasie	4
Most shots on target: Jason Puncheon	30
Most shots off target: Jason Puncheon	45
Most red cards: Two players	1
Most yellow cards: Two players	9
Free-kicks won: Marouane Chamakh	55
Defensive clearances: Damien Delaney	349

## 2013-14 Premier League

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
11th	38	13	6	19	33	48

## STAN JAMES ODDS

Palace to be relegated this season

\*Prices subject to fluctuation.  
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CRYSTAL PALACE: 5000/1\*



WEST HAM: 2500/1\*



## Betting guide

# Costa set to tip title Jose's way

by **Rory Jiwani**  
of **StanJames.com**

MANCHESTER CITY may be Premier League champions, but at StanJames.com we make Chelsea the 15-8\* favourites, with City 2-1 in what looks a two-horse race for the title.

Chelsea are the punters' choice and the subject of our biggest bet so far at £5,000.

Manager Jose Mourinho bemoaned his lack of striking options last season, but Diego Costa has arrived to rectify that. Costa disappointed for Spain in the World Cup, but he probably needed a rest after firing Atletico Madrid to La Liga and to within an ace of landing the European Cup.

Didier Drogba is back to share the workload and the Blues have added former Arsenal favourite Cesc Fabregas to an already impressive midfield. Last term's stingiest defence has lost David Luiz, but Mourinho

### Stan James title odds

Chelsea	15-8
Man City	2-1
Man United	9-2
Arsenal	6-1
Liverpool	10-1
Tottenham	50-1
Everton	100-1

should find a more solid replacement.

Financial fair play sanctions have restricted City's transfer activity, but they hardly required an overhaul after scoring 105 goals last season.

Joe Hart now has serious competition in goal from Willy Caballero, while Fernando adds physicality to the midfield and we are keen to keep Manuel Pellegrini's men on-side.

Manchester United have been supported into 9-2 third-favourites with Louis van Gaal delighted by his side's

pre-season displays, including a 3-1 win over European champions Real Madrid.

Luke Shaw and Ander Herrera should perform well in areas United were lacking under David Moyes, but the defence needs bolstering further and Robin van Persie's injury proneness is a worry.

It is hard to see Van Gaal transforming United into title contenders, but they have been backed into 2-1 ON to finish in the top four.

Arsenal attracted some support when they signed Alexis Sanchez from Barcelona. That has since cooled, although we may see more money if Sami Khedira joins Arsene Wenger's squad.

Last season's runners-up, Liverpool, have tried to fill the gap left by Luis Suarez with some solid foreign signings and the pick of Southampton's squad, but they are out to 10-1 to win the title and they could suffer in the same way.



Diego Costa looks a shrewd signing by Chelsea

Tottenham did after Gareth Bale's departure.

Saints have been all the rage for relegation following the exit of a number of first-team players and manager Mauricio Pochettino to Tottenham. Ronald Koeman's men are 4-1 for the drop, having been 12-1 at the start of the summer. Burnley are our 8-15 favourites to go down, but it will be tight

at the bottom with seven teams trading at 3-1 or less.

Elsewhere, Alan Pardew's Newcastle are 6-5 from 11-8 to finish in the top 10 and Wayne Rooney is 10-1 from 16-1 to be top goalscorer.

Stoke City are the punters' pick on the handicap with the Potters 16-1 getting a 36-point start on Chelsea off scratch.

\*Prices subject to change

### Quiz

1 Who scored his first Chelsea goal in their 2-1 friendly win over Olimpija Ljubljana?

2 Which player left Manchester United's tour of the United States with an injury?

3 Muhammed Besic has signed a five-year deal with which team?

4 Which Premier League manager has been at his club for the longest period?

5 For which team does Steven Caulker play?

6 Which newcomers face Chelsea on the opening day of the season?

7 From which club did Arsenal sign goalkeeper David Ospina?

8 Who has signed Bojan Krkic from Barcelona?

9 Whose proposed move to Liverpool collapsed, reportedly due to a failed medical examination?

10 Gylfi Sigurdsson has signed for Swansea, but to which team was he contracted when the Welsh side had him on loan in 2012?

### ANSWERS

1 Diego Costa; 2 Rafael; 3 Everton; 4 Arsene Wenger; 5 QPR; 6 Burnley; 7 Nice; 8 Stoke; 9 Ljubljana; 10 1999 Hoffenheim.

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SOUTHERN  
**Daily Echo**

# FIND THE BALL

## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT

# £43,000

or £2,850  
Nearest miss prize

PLUS 70 consolation prizes of £15 each week

20 for Southern Daily Echo  
20 for Daily Echo Bournemouth  
10 for Dorset Echo  
10 for Sunday Independent  
10 for Brighton Argus



**F**IND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echoes, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot and £50 will be added to the nearest-miss prize.

The nearest-miss prize will be paid out to the competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £6,000 and the nearest-miss prize at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 45 weeks, when standing at £50,000, three nearest miss prizes will be awarded totalling £24,000 – with a first prize of £12,000, a second prize of £8,000 and a third prize of £4,000.

The jackpot for the following week will be £26,000 with £1,000 being added each week. The nearest miss prize will be £2,000 with £50 added each week until the jackpot prize reaches £50,000.

If there is still no entry showing the exact centre of the ball, the process is repeated until there is an exact centre of the ball winner.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

### RESULTS



**CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES**  
Thursday 9am,  
21 August 2014  
Names of winners will be published on Saturday, 23 August or Sunday 24 August 2014

### Winners

Competition number **S30**

### JACKPOT WINNER **NO WINNER**

#### CONGRATULATIONS

Mr J Hill, Roche, Cornwall  
who wins the nearest miss prize of £2,800

The following competitors each receive a consolation prize of £15

B Baggaley, Eastleigh, Hants  
C Baker, Southampton, Hants  
T Chandler, Southampton, Hants  
J Cleary, Southampton, Hants  
J Dilbden, Romsey, Hants  
A Greenham, Southampton, Hants  
B Harris, Southampton, Hants  
B Hodgson, Southampton, Hants  
E Kneller, Southampton, Hants  
J Maynard, Southampton, Hants

### Rules

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**DAILY ECHO**

# Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

**FOLLOWING** Hampshire's exit from the 50-over Royal London One-Day Cup, T20 Finals Day represents the last white-ball cricket of the county's season.

Hampshire take on Lancashire in the second semi-final (2.30pm) next Saturday, the winners of which will play Warwickshire or Surrey in the Edgbaston final.

Here is the lowdown on the respective counties from four of the regional journalists who cover them: our own Simon Walter, Chris Ostick (*Manchester Evening News*), Brian Halford (*Birmingham Evening Mail*) and Richard Spiller (*Surrey Advertiser*).

## HAMPSHIRE

### Three key players

**James Vince:** At 23, he is Hampshire's youngest post-war captain. Returned to form at the perfect time, hitting an unbeaten 93 against Notts in the quarter-final, his most important innings since his 66 not out against Warwickshire at Edgbaston at the same stage of the 2010 competition. Elegant right-hander and an England-batsman-in-waiting.

**Matt Coles:** One of two excellent winter signings by Hampshire (the other is former Durham captain Will Smith), the ex-Kent all-rounder has been a very able replacement for Dimitri Mascarenhas. Has been the pick of Hampshire's seamers thanks to his effective slower balls and he blitzed the county's fastest-ever fifty (18 balls) in a crucial win against Essex last month.

**Owais Shah:** Only five players (Chris Gayle, Brad Hodge, David Hussey, Brendon McCullum and David Warner) have scored more T20 runs in the history of the shortest format. Signed on a match-by-match basis at the start of the season and has so far contributed 149 runs at 74.5. The man of the match when Middlesex won the 2008 final, he helped fill the void left by Neil McKenzie for five games before heading off to the Caribbean Premier League. He will return to replace Glenn Maxwell.

### Story of the T20 season:

Three

defeats in four games denied them a

home quarter-final but Hampshire

regained momentum by winning their

last two group matches before chasing

down 198 with an over to spare to beat

Notts at Trent Bridge, ensuring their

place at Finals Day for a record fifth

successive season.

**Odds:** 5/2 (Sky Bet)

**How they fared last year:** Topped the

south division and beat Lancashire in

the quarter-finals before losing the sec-

ond semi-final to Surrey, by four wicks-

ets.

**Analysis:** Hampshire have more Finals

Day experience than any of the quartet

and have proved a lot of people wrong

by getting there without Dimitri

Mascarenhas and Neil McKenzie. This

will be their first Finals Day without an

overseas player, but they will be confi-

dent despite the absence of Glenn

Maxwell and Kyle Abbott. For all his IPL

success, Maxwell never fired for

Hampshire this year (his best innings

were in the other formats). Kyle

Abbott's workers may be missed at the

death, but Owais Shah and Liam

Dawson are very handy replacements.

The latter will complete a three-man

spin attack, alongside Will Smith and

Danny Briggs, that helped Hampshire

win their last two group games when

Abbott was unavailable. They will be

glad to have second use of the T20

track.

**Quote unquote:** Will Smith: "During

the quarter-final you could sense people

lifting themselves because they knew

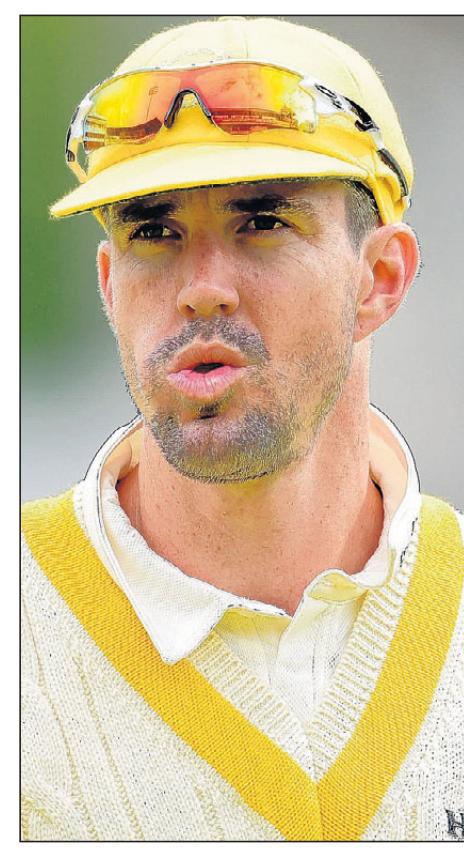
this was an occasion they've been in

so many times before, done well in and

exceeded at. I'm sure everyone will be

even more wired in on Finals Day and

hopefully the teams we come up



**KEY MEN:** Surrey's ex-Hampshire ace Kevin Pietersen and, main pic, Hampshire captain James Vince.

against will go the other way and we'll be able to express ourselves and come out on top. We've got the right draw playing second, we've just got to win that and take it into the final."

## LANCASHIRE

### Three key players

**Tom Smith:** Is having the best season of his career in all forms of the game and has been key in getting Lancashire off to a flying start at the top of the order during the march to finals day. He equalled the fastest half-century by a Lightning player in T20 cricket in the group match against Yorkshire at Emirates Old Trafford, reaching 50 off just 22 balls. Very useful with the ball too, with teammate Usman Khawaja nicknaming him Golden Arm for his knack of taking wickets in the first over of a spell. His impressive form earned him a call-up to the England Lions squad earlier this month.

**Jos Buttler:** The crowd need to be

on alert when the big-hitting wicket-keeper is at the crease because it is very likely the ball will be heading in their direction! Has burst onto the Test scene this summer, helping England turn around their series against India. Brilliant finisher of an innings and can easily take the game away from any opponent in an over or two.

**Kabir Ali:** Former England Test bowler is Lancashire's joint

leading wicket-taker in the competition this season with 19 at an average of just 14. But it is at the end of an innings when the 33-year-old comes into his own with his ability to bowl the perfect yorker. Can give the ball a whack too if needed.

**Story of the T20 season:** After losing their opening match at Nottinghamshire, Lancashire marched into the quarter-finals by

topping the North Division, playing some stunning cricket and winning several tight games on the way. In all they won 10 matches, with the

last-over reverse against rivals Yorkshire at Emirates Old Trafford their only other defeat. Looked up against it in their last-eight home clash with Glamorgan until Jordan Clark produced a triple-wicket maiden to turn the game as they won by just one run.

**Odds:** 11/4

**How they fared last year:** Lancashire finished second in the North Division last season with five wins to set up a quarter-final trip to Hampshire – who they face in this year's semi-final. After the home side posted 202-3 with a century from Michael Carberry,

Lancashire fell two runs short of victory as they were held to 201-4.

**How will they do?** Lancashire have been impressive on their way to Finals Day and they have got there without relying just on the performances of one individual. It has been a real team effort. Their batting has been destructive at times and their bowling attack is one of the best in the competition,



# Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



# FINALS DAY FIREWORKS GET SET TO BLAST OFF

Hampshire going all guns blazing to win back their T20 crown



although they will be without key player Junaid Khan. But in Andrew Flintoff, pictured left, they have a ready-made replacement as long as the former England captain can shake off a calf injury. What a fairytale return it would be, Freddie smashing a six off the last ball to win the final having retired four years ago! Amazingly, considering only Hampshire have won more T20 games since the tournament started in 2003, Lancashire have never won this trophy. But the team is full of confidence in this form of the game and there is a sense that their name just might be on this elusive piece of silverware this season. **Quote unquote:** Captain Paul Horton: "The campaign has gone really well for us and I have no doubt this side has the ability to win the competition. Previous Lancashire sides have had the ability to win it and, over the years, the way we have played we should have won this tournament before now."

## WARWICKSHIRE

### Three key players

**Jeetan Patel:** The New Zealand spinner is the backbone of Warwickshire's limited-overs bowling strategy and has bowled brilliantly in this year's T20, taking 23 wickets at 11.52 apiece. His concession of less than a run a ball in the quarter-final at Chelmsford was the game's deciding factor.

**Ian Bell:** Largely a stranger to his county, as always, this summer, Bell, right, will be available for the showpiece day and though perhaps not ideally suited to T20 cricket, he has the

class to play a big innings. He has delivered some spectacular limited-overs knocks on his infrequent returns to his county over the years.

**Rikki Clarke:** A key man with bat and ball. Has this season delivered the most economic analysis by a Warwickshire player in T20 (4-0-8-1) and unfurled a majestic 37-ball 70 in the quarter-final win over

Essex.  
Last

time the Bears featured in Finals Day, Clarke played against them in the final for Surrey.

**Story of the T20 season:** Warwickshire sneaked through from the group on the last day thanks to their win over Leicestershire allied to Yorkshire's defeat to Nottinghamshire at Headingley. Their form through their group fluctuated, four successive wins early on then four successive defeats before a late rally saw them through to a quarter-final in which they impressively defeated hot favourites Essex at Chelmsford.

**Odds:** 5/1

### How they fared last year:

Warwickshire did not qualify from the group in 2013, their tenth successive failure to reach Finals Day.

**Analysis:** Warwickshire will go into Finals Day as fourth favourites but with the fillip of substantial support from the stands in their own stadium. They are underdogs – but they like it that way.



And the force is with them after four successive wins in the group and quarter-final. Much will depend upon whether opposing batsmen can get at Jeetan Patel – no-one has done so yet this season and many have perished trying.

**Quote unquote:** Rikki Clarke: "Realistically, we are underdogs due to the simple fact that we have not been to a finals day for 11 years. We scraped through from the group thanks to Notts doing us a favour at Yorkshire, but we are peaking at the right time."

## SURREY

### Three key players

**Jason Roy:** Bowlers have been quaking at the thought of having to contain and dismiss Roy, the highest run-scorer in the competition this year with 619, which has included eight half-centuries. His strike-rate of 152 is owed to a mammoth 67 fours and 25 sixes, earning enough man-of-the-match awards to decorate his house. With Tillakaratne Dilshan returning to Sri Lanka for international duty, Surrey will be even more dependent on Roy.

**Azhar Mahmood:** The former Pakistan all-rounder has belied his age of 39 to be Surrey's all-round enforcer. Capable of a mid-innings spurt or sudden acceleration in the closing overs, Mahmood has also been the highest wicket-taker for his county with 16 victims. He is likely to be entrusted with the new ball and those crucial overs at the end.

**Kevin Pietersen:** A top score of only 39 in 12 innings means Pietersen has barely featured in Surrey's rise to the finals but who would be foolish enough to write him off on the domestic game's showpiece day? A desire to show that he can still perform when the spotlight is upon him will be irresistible to Pietersen in his long-running battle with the establishment.

**Story of Surrey's T20 season:** Surrey finished second in the South Group with a record of played 14, won nine, lost five. Their best batting performance of the campaign came at the Oval in June when openers Hashim Amla and Jason Roy hit 61 and 81 respectively as Surrey scored 149-0 to beat Sussex by 10 wickets. In the quarter-final, another half-century from Roy helped Surrey beat Worcestershire by three wickets.

**Odds:** 2/1.

**How they fared last year:** After six years of failing to get out of the group stages, Surrey made it all the way to the final in the 2013 Friends Life T20 thanks to victories over Somerset and Hampshire in the knockout rounds. However, they were soundly beaten in the final at Edgbaston, losing by 102 runs to Northants. Replying to 194-2, Surrey were all out for 92 inside 14 overs.

**Analysis:** Five of Surrey's nine wins came on slow pitches at The Oval prepared with their spin-dominated attack in mind, so they will have to show they can succeed on other surfaces too.

Losing Dilshan to international duty is a major blow, requiring the likes of Roy and Steven Davies to ensure a fast start with the bat and skipper Gary Wilson to be at his unorthodox best towards the end of the innings.

Jade Dernbach's long-running hamstring strain will leave him short of match fitness heading into finals day but he, like the rest of the side, are doubly determined to make up for being smashed in last year's final.

**Quote unquote:** "It would be wrong to say we were expecting to reach the finals again this year but I would have been disappointed if we hadn't because the side was pretty much handpicked with that in mind," said director of cricket Alec Stewart.

On the absence of Dilshan he added: "We knew that was the situation when we signed him and you're not allowed to sign someone just for finals day now, unlike in the past. So we will just have to get on with it."

# Local Cricket Spotlight

## Seven up for Pack

THERE'S seldom a moment on a cricket field when young Rob Pack doesn't have a smile on his face – so imagine the 16-year-old's delight after taking an amazing 7-17 for Bournemouth against Hook & Newnham Basics last weekend!

"I don't think I've ever seen a broader smile from a youngster ever," said Bournemouth skipper Martin Miller.

The teenage left-arm spinner returned the third best individual figures in the history of the competition – and the best for a 16-year-old – with only New Milton pair David Wheeler and Nick Elliott above him.

Pack, son of former Bournemouth colts organiser Neil Pack, is in his debut season in the SPL, having caught the eye in the winter NatWest Under-16 indoor competition at the Ageas Bowl for the past three years.

Miller said: "Rob bowled beautifully.



ROB PACK

He has just returned from injury and had been bowling well in previous matches. Against Hook, he had the ball on a string and his figures speak for themselves.

"We had three other spinners in the early part of the season and have used Rob when we felt we could play him. We have tried to give him experience and he has taken to it like a duck to water."

"He bowled in tandem with Brad Schmutz and they were virtually unplayable. Although Brad didn't take a wicket, his nine overs went for just seven runs."

Spinner Pack was called upon after Ben Bridgen had removed Hook opener Jordan Hobday and claimed all seven victims on the trot as the visitors were reduced to 106 for eight.

And with Jake Hurley (2-20) mopping up the tail, Hook were eventually dismissed for just 116 in pursuit of Bournemouth's 240 for eight at Chapel Gate.

Dorset's Mike Kitson (76) had laid the foundations for their big score, while Hurley (55) and Miller (36) also made valuable contributions.

It was Bournemouth's fifth successive win – one which will make New Milton's visit to Chapel Gate interesting next week.

TOM Morton and James Hibberd are homing in on a South Wilts double – may be even a treble – in the ECB Southern Electric Premier League individual awards.

With 591 runs, Morton is hot favourite to win the Premier batting award and, going into today's round 15 fixtures, Hibberd was five victims ahead of Richard Taylor in the bowling stakes. South Wilts could also

scoop a third individual award – if Morton can edge out Bashey's Dan Friedman in the wicket-keeping award.

New Milton's Nicky Elliott remains on course for the Division 1 bowling prize, while Calmore Sports all-rounder Mark Lavelle is under close scrutiny from fellow left-arm spinner Andrew Denney in Division 2.

Leading performers - ECB Premier Division

**Batting:** Tom Morton (South Wilts) 591, Tom Friend (Ventnor) 483, Pete Hopson (Havant) 461, Tom Also (Academy) 452, Eddie Abel (South Wilts) 417, Nick Baker (Bashey Rydal) 414, Richard Morris (Bashey Rydal) 411.

**Bowling:** James Hibberd (South Wilts) 33, Richard Taylor (St Cross Symondsbury) 28, \* Cameron Valente (Totton & Eling) 26, Sam Thomson (Bashey Rydal) 25.

**Wicket-keeping:** Dan Friedman (Bashey Rydal) 20, Tom Morton (South Wilts) 20, Jamie Rood (Burridge) 15, Jez Bullied (Burridge) 14.

**Division 1**

**Batting:** Dave Taylor (Andover) 437, Nono Pongolo (Hambledon) 421, Dave Banks (Sarisbury Athletic) 418, Tom Gates (Fawley) 412.

**Bowling:** \* Pat Burns (Portsmouth) 26, \* Hamish Blomfield (Langley Manor) 25, Mark Lavelle (Calmore Sports) 24, \* Ryan Felsch (Rowledge) 23, Andy Denney

(Paultons) 22, \* Jayden Derosa (Spars Holt) 21.

**Wicket-keeping:** \* Scott Duggan (Paultons) 14, Adam Gough (Spars Holt) 13, Ben Wish (Rowledge) 12.

**Division 3**

**Batting:** Warren Ekstraal (Waterloo) 549, James Scott (Waterloo) 481, Mark Heffernan (Alton II) 450, Jack Davies (P & S) 316, James Underwood (Bashey Rydal) 304.

**Bowling:** James Rapson (Bashey Rydal) 26, Tom Allam (Tichborne Park) 26, Rhys Oxley (Fair Oak) 24, \* Jake Roach (Tichborne Park) 24.

**Wicket-keeping:** Mark Heffernan (Alton II) 20, Andy Reynolds (Waterloo) 19, Nigel le Bas (Trojans) 16.

## South Wilts pair top the charts



# YOUNG GUNS SPUN OUT

**HAMPSHIRE Under-15s overcame a huge batting collapse to have their Middlesex counterparts on the ropes eight wickets down before conceding defeat in the ECB's Royal London national cup quarter-final at Totton & Eling's Linden Oval.**

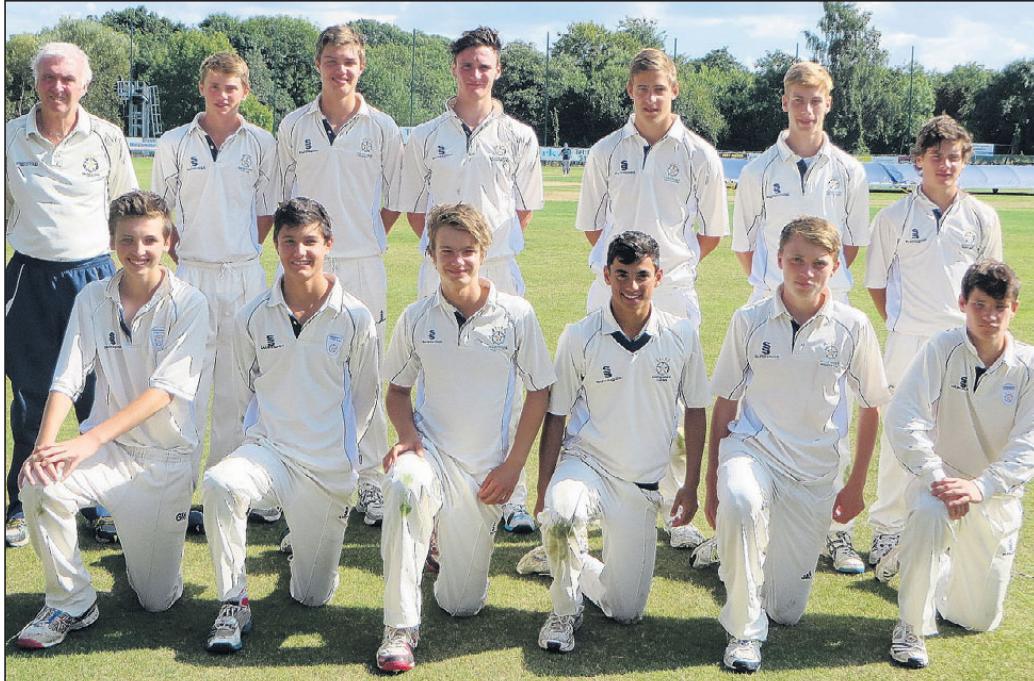
Spin dominated as Hampshire plunged from 62-0 to 139 all out, but led by a five-wicket return from Havant's Bobby Dyer (5-19), they hit back to have Middlesex 108-8 before the city side got across the line.

Billy Mead (41) and Rhodes Franklin (31) earlier provided Hampshire with a flying start, but the Linden Oval surface turned prodigiously and nine wickets fell for 46 runs before last pair Kieran Whittle and Chris Searle added 21 to lift the total to 139.

Abdullah Nazir (5-31) and Rahul Wijeratne (4-38) did the damage for Middlesex, whose top order batsmen fastened on to some loose Hampshire new ball bowling to power the visitors to 48-1 before Dyer's off-spin sparked off the day's second collapse.

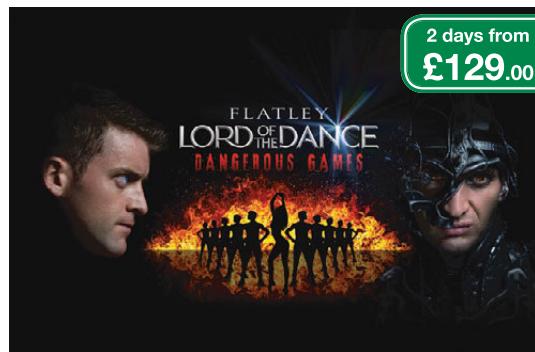
Middlesex crumbled to 108-8 before Chris Scott's unbeaten 46 got them across the line.

Hampshire had previously won six of their eight west group matches in the national competition.



**HAMPSHIRE UNDER-15S:** Standing (from left): Dave Gelling (coach), Tom Foster, Chris Searle, Rory McMichael, Tom Gnodde, Rhodes Franklin, Bobby Dyer. Kneeling: Kieran Whittle, Billy Mead, Felix Organ, Sam Caldera, Matt McGlinchey, Elliott Mitchell-Lee.

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# Local Cricket Spotlight



**ON THE UP:**  
Lymington 2nd XI are pushing hard for promotion from County Division 1 and lie third in the table with three games to play.

Back row (from left): Kieran Moors, Josh Goodchild, Simon Naylor, James Parker, Martin Gregory, Chris Jennings.

Front: Drew Robinson, Luke Marshall, Oliver Kelly, Joel Sutherland, Geoff Webber.

## Parley lose in the final

PARLEY Sports finished creditable runners-up out of 1,700 entries in the ECB's Royal London Under-15 national club championship after losing to all-conquering Guildford in the final at Kibworth.

Ollie Shrubsole, with an impressive return of five wickets for eight runs, wrecked Bedfordshire's Southill Park in the semi-final, which Parley won by eight wickets. But Guildford proved a step too far for Parley, who were dismissed for 70 by Guildford, who then strolled to a seven-wicket win.

## Milton eye Totton raid

NEW Milton are looking to pull off a smash and grab raid by snatching the Southern Electric twenty20 Plate from Totton & Eling's own Linden Oval headquarters tomorrow teatime, 4pm.

Despite Totton's lowly Premier Division standing, New Milton are the underdogs going into tomorrow's inaugural Plate final.

"It's a great venue and with the Saints soccer on television beforehand, there will be a great atmosphere at Southern Gardens, so we must ensure we're not intimidated," says Milton skipper Ryan Beck.

"This Plate competition has been a great idea, providing us with more t20 cricket on Sundays and now a potentially great final to play in."

Having won the Calmire 'qualifier', Totton chased down Waterlooville's 208-2 to win their semi-final - skipper James Taylor hitting a superb unbeaten century. New Milton enjoyed a less hectic six-wicket win over Hook & Newnham Basics.

## Joe shines for England

HAMPSHIRE Academy captain Joe Weatherley hit 55 to help England Under-17s post 292-7 and beat their Pakistan counterparts by 130 runs at Loughborough yesterday.

KES student Weatherley is vice-captain of the England side which also beat South Africa Under-19s earlier this week.

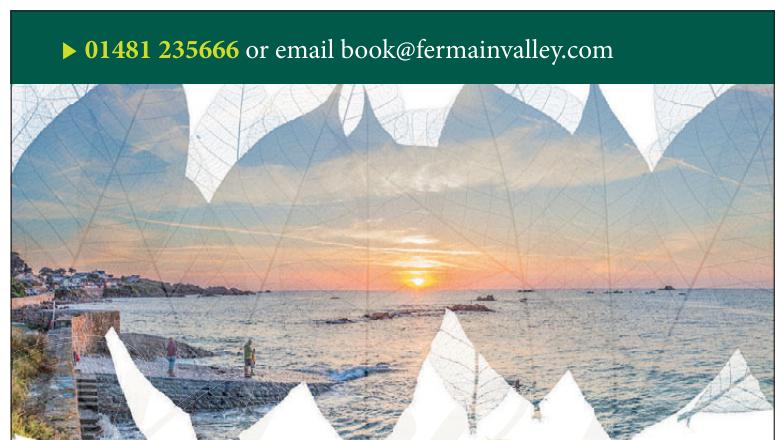
## Cup semi

OLD Tauntonians & Romsey host Fair Oak tomorrow for the right to play Basingstoke & North Hants in the Hampshire Under-17 twenty20 Cup final on the Ageas Bowl Nursery Ground next Friday.

## Kent clash

HAMPSHIRE Seniors face Kent in the ECB 50-plus County Championship quarter-finals at May's Bounty, Basingstoke, on Sunday, 1pm.

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# Horse Racing

## SOUTHWELL

Going: Good

**2.00 WI INSPIRING WOMEN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 5). £4,000 added 4YO PLUS 3m 110yds Penalty Value £2,599.**

1 63-044 WEST END (IRE) (60) K Bailey 7 11 12 ..... A P McCoy  
2 0-1523 WINTER ALCHEMY (IRE) (35) D N Richards 9 11 9 ..... B Harding

3 50-5F1 MOSS GROVE (IRE) (62) D Fehily (IRE) 8 11 7 ..... N Fehily  
4 -6P432 LOCAL PRESENT (IRE) (14) D C Grant 11 10 8 ..... D Costello  
5 F1F-0U INANDOVER (14) C J Mackie 9 10 2 ..... D Devereux

**BETTING:** 13-8 Moss Grove, 9-4 West End, 9-2 Local Present, 6-1 Winter Alchemy, 10-1 Inandover.

**2.30 TURNBULL HOME IMPROVEMENT NOVICES' CHASE (CLASS 4). £6,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m Penalty Value £3,899.**

1 0P-412 FALCARRAGH (IRE) (34) D T Vaughan 7 11 6 ..... R Johnson  
2 15-102 HALLINGS COMET (28) (D/B) Adrian Wintle 5 11 6 ..... A Coleman

3 2-2323 BACCALAUREATE (IRE) (27) (CD) Mrs S Smith 8 11 0 ..... R Maria  
4 -6P0-4 BALLYBOGEOY (IRE) (42) D C Pogson 8 11 0 ..... A Pogson  
5 411412 DEALING RIVER (17) (CD) Bf Mrs C Bailey 7 11 0 A Thornton  
6 1000-6 KEYCHAIN (IRE) (108) D B Powell 4 10 1 ..... J B Powell  
7 130-31 AZZA (FR) (20) D Pipe 4 10 0 ..... C O'Farrell

**BETTING:** 6-4 Azza, 5-2 Falcarragh, 4-1 Hallings Comet, 10-1 Baccalaureate, 14-1 Dealing River, 16-1 Ballybogey, 25-1 Keychain.

## DUNDALK

Going: Standard

**2.40 CROWNE PLAZA RACE & STAY RATED RACE. £8,333 added 3YO PLUS 5f Penalty Value EUR6900.**

1 -66510 ALMADAA (19) (CD) M Mamane 7 9 8 ..... C R King (3) 4  
2 420-10 SYLVAN MIST (IRE) (170) D E Lyman 4 9 7 ..... P J Smullen 1  
3 021405 ABOVE THE LAW (IRE) (9) (CD) A Oliver 5 9 5 ..... Christina Simpson (10) 3

4 232425 CHICLET (IRE) (43) Tracey Collins 3 9 3 ..... P K Donovan (7) 5  
5 1100 PRINCE CONNOISSEUR (IRE) (35) (CD) John Feane 3 9 3F M Berry 2

**BETTING:** 5-4 Almadaa, 5-2 Sylvan Mist, 5-1 Chiclet, 7-1 Prince Connoisseur, 10-1 Above The Law.

**3.10 IRISH STALLION FARMS E.B.F. MAIDEN. £10,417 added 2YO only 6f Penalty Value EUR8600.**

1 6 COOL BEANS (12) G M Lyons 9 5 ..... C Keanne 1  
2 3 COPLEYS WALK (IRE) (17) John Murphy 9 5 ..... F M Berry 5  
3 3 GENERAL MARSHALL (USA) (12) P A O'Brien 9 5 ..... J P O'Brien 2

4 4 ROMIAC (IRE) (31) Ms Sheila Lavery 9 5 ..... P J Smullen 6  
5 3222 TOSCANINI (IRE) (29) M Halford 9 5 ..... S Foley 3  
6 050 ZEBED (IRE) (29) John Oxx 9 5 ..... D McDonagh 4

**BETTING:** 8-10 Toscanini, 9-2 General Marshall, 7-1 Romiac, 10-1 Zebed, 12-1 Cool Beans, 14-1 Copleys Walk.

**3.40 BAR ONE RACING MOURNE HANDICAP. £17,500 added 3YO PLUS 6f Penalty Value EUR13700.**

1 01-251 RUMMAGING (IRE) (163) (CD) M Halford 6 9 12 C P Hoban (3) 5  
2 643200 BUBBLY BELLINI (IRE) (28) (CD) A McGuinness 7 9 11 ..... D McDonagh 9  
3 06-034 ELUSIVE TIME (IRE) (25) (D8) T Kodama 6 9 11 R Coakley (5)

## PONTEFRACT

Going: Good

**2.15 BRITISH STALLION STUDS EBF TREVOR WOODS MEMORIAL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 4). £8,000 added 2YO only 5f**

1 02 BARON SPIKEY (IRE) (20) Mrs A Duffield 9 5 ..... G Lee 5  
2 0 CANNY KOOI (22) B Ellison 9 5 ..... P Pickard 6  
3 40 CHARLES MESSIER (62) (B) Smart 9 5 ..... P Mulrennan 2  
4 0 CHARLIE LAD (65) O Pears 9 5 ..... R Winston 8  
5 0 YORKSHIRE (IRE) (10) Bf K Ryan 9 5 ..... S De Sousa 7  
6 03 LADY ATLAS (17) D Brown 9 0 ..... M Stanton 1  
7 0 ROBIN PARK (17) C Cox 9 0 ..... R Tate (3) 4

**BETTING:** 9-4 Grandad's World, 3-1 Baron Spikey, 7-2 Robin Park, 6-1 Charles Messier, 7-1 Yorkshire, 20-1 Lady Atlas, 25-1 Canny Kooi, 33-1 Charlie Lad.

**2.45 TOTEPOOL HOME OF POOL BETTING HANDICAP (CLASS 3). £15,000 added 3YO PLUS 1m 4f**

1 00-000 OPEN EAGLE (IRE) (43) (D) D O'Meara 5 10 0 ..... D Tudhope 7  
2 6-0211 ONLY ORSENFOOLIES (29) (CD) M Hammond 5 9 10G Lee 4

3 026-04 RIO'S ROSANNA (IRE) (14) (C/D) R M Whitaker 7 9 8 ..... G Chaloner (3) 3

4 4-1150 ARAMIST (IRE) (37) (CD) G Swinburn 4 9 7 ..... B A Curtis 1

5 414/01 CHEVALGRIS (33) G Swinburn 4 9 5 ..... D Allan 5

6 31-41 ALEX VINO (IRE) (24) Sir M Stoute 3 9 3 ..... S W Kelly 8

7 00-231 ASTEROIDEA (41) (D) Mrs P Sly 3 8 12 ..... G Gibbons 2

**3.00**

### AMBITIONS PERSONNEL

**HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 2). £22,500 added 4YO PLUS 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £14,620.**

1 31100- OFF THE GROUND (IRE) (136) (D) Miss E Lavelle 8 11 12 ..... A Coleman  
2 1P4-33 TINDARO (FR) (F15) P Webber 7 11 1 ..... D O'Regan  
3 U220-P DURSEY SOUND (IRE) (29) (D) Jonge O'Neill 6 10 11 ..... A P McCoy  
4 01P2P- WIESENTRAUM (GER) (134) (CD) Mrs L Wadham 8 10 11 ..... A P McCoy  
5 462-F6 SUPERIOR QUALITY (IRE) (29) (D) C Longsdon 9 10 8 ..... N Fehily  
6 634-12 BUCK MULLIGAN (28) (D/B) E Williams 9 10 5 ..... P Moloney  
7 15-205 PAPRADON (35) N Twiston-Davies 10 10 15 N Twiston-Davies  
8 1P4-F1 VALLEYOFMILAN (IRE) (26) (D) D McCain 7 10 0 J Cowley (7)

**BETTING:** 4-1 Superior Quality, 9-2 Buck Mulligan, 5-1 Wiesentraum, Dursey Sound, 6-1 Off The Ground, 7-1 Tindaro, 10-1 Valleyofmilan, Papradon.

**3.30**

### FIREWALL LIMITED HANDICAP

**HURDLE (CLASS 4). £5,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,249.**

1 1-4123 SURF AND TURF (IRE) (35) (CD) Kevin Frost 8 11 12 ..... B Hughes  
2 316-43 MINELLA FIVE (IRE) (68) (D) J Butler 6 11 6 ..... S Twiston-Davies  
3 /4PP-0 CROSS OF HONOUR (IRE) (23) (D) C Longsdon 7 11 4 ..... N Fehily  
4 4P24-6 HOUSTON DYNAMO (IRE) (87) D Pipe 9 11 3 ..... A P McCoy  
5 3/4F0 VUVUZELA (65) (D) Rebecca Menzies 8 11 2 ..... T Kelly (3)

**BETTING:** 9-4 Superior Quality, 9-2 Buck Mulligan, 5-1 Wiesentraum, Dursey Sound, 6-1 Off The Ground, 7-1 Tindaro, 10-1 Valleyofmilan, Papradon.

**4.05**

### MARY BENNETT BIRTHDAY

**HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 3). £8,500 added 4YO PLUS 3m 110yds Penalty Value £5,523.**

1 0-2030 BARIZAN (IRE) (29) D McCain 9 11 12 ..... A P McCoy  
2 1U2213 ALAIM (29) J P Ferguson 8 11 1 ..... D O'Regan  
3 003-6 CAPELLANUS (IRE) (29) (C) B Ellison 8 10 11 C Gallagher (7)  
4 42316- KING BORU (IRE) (124) (D) Miss E Lavelle 6 10 7 A Coleman  
5 11-215 GEORGE FERNBECK (29) (CD) B Ellison 6 10 6 ..... D Cook  
6 441424 A TAIL OF INTRIGUE (IRE) (29) I William 6 10 7 Will Kennedy  
7 231/424 CAT SIX (USA) (28) David Robert 6 10 1 ..... L Edwards

**BETTING:** 7-2 Minella Five, 5-1 Surf And Turf, 6-1 Houston Dynamo, 7-1 Schelme, 8-1 The Kvillenek, Cross Of Honour, 10-1 Vuvuzela, 12-1 Travis County, 14-1 others.

**4.35**

### A & V SQUIRES PLANT MARES'

**NOVICES' HURDLE (CLASS 4). £5,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m Penalty Value £3,249.**

1 44101 SURENESS (IRE) (20) (D) C Mann 4 11 9 ..... N Fehily  
2 0-5431 MY BETTY (IRE) (26) (C) Peter Croke (IRE) 6 11 3A P McCoy

**BETTING:** 9-4 Alaim, 4-1 A Tail Of Intrigue, 9-2 George Fernbeck, 5-1 King Boru, 7-1 Cat Six, 12-1 Capellanus.

**5.05**

### COOPERS MARQUEES HANDICAP

**HURDLE (CLASS 5). £4,000 added 4YO PLUS 3m 110yds Penalty Value £2,599.**

1 120-64 MOTU (FR) (32) (C) R Phillips 9 11 12 ..... A P McCoy  
2 2-13U3 BILLY TWO TONGUES (14) (D) M W Easterby 6 11 11 ..... Mr H Bannister (7)

**BETTING:** 10-11 My Betty, 5-2 Sureness, 5-1 Ovilia, 7-1 Asuncion, 33-1 Russian Link, 66-1 Isdaal, 100-1 Shakespear Dancer.

**5.15**

### CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL DUNDALK

**HANDICAP (50-70). £7,500 added 3YO PLUS 1m Penalty Value EUR6200.**

1 221050 SHIPYARD (USA) (9) (D) A Oliver 5 8 13 ..... G F Carroll 7  
2 040262 KISS THE STARS (35) (D) T G McCourt 4 11 1 ..... S Corby 3  
3 111242 STRATEGIC HEIGHTS (IRE) (36) (C/B) John Feane 5 5 3 C D Hayes 2

**BETTING:** 9-2 Zalty, 5-1 Rummaging, 6-1 Hi Emperor, 8-1 Kiss The Stars, 10-1 Strategic Heights, Yulong Baoju, Masai, Kernoff, 12-1 others.

**4.15**

### IRISH STALLION FARMS E.B.F. FILLIES MAIDEN.

**£10,417 added 2YO only 6f Penalty Value EUR8600.**

1 242530 BLUE FRAGRANCE (IRE) (85) M O'Callaghan 9 0 ..... F Lynch 7  
2 5045U COCOON (IRE) (19) A P O'Brien 9 5 ..... Anastasia O'Brien 7 5  
3 -20560 FOOLISH WAYS (IRE) (45) D Wachman 9 0 ..... W J Lee 3  
4 303000 MAIRA (IRE) (5) M Halford 9 0 ..... S Foley 8  
5 0 0 MISS TEMPLE (IRE) (12) P D Deegan 9 0 ..... C D Hayes 2  
6 0 0 ORTIGA (IRE) E Lyman 9 0 ..... P J Smullen 1  
7 0 43 QUALIFY (IRE) (24) P O'Brien 9 0 ..... J P O'Brien 4  
8 0 0 REAL EILE (IRE) (7) G M Lyons 9 0 ..... C Keane 6  
9 0 0 TACTICAL LETTER (IRE) (7) Joseph G Murphy 9 0 ..... G F Carroll 9

**BETTING:** 9-4 Qualify, 4-1 Foolish Ways, 5-1 Blue Fragrance, 10-1 Cocoon, 12-1 Maira, Reataile, 14-1 Ortiga, 16-1 Tactical Letter, 20-1 Miss Temple.

**4.45**

### BAR ONE RACING TELEBETTING

**1800 624524 MAIDEN. £8,750 added**

1 242530 THE BLACK DEVIL (IRE) (10) (CD) G Keane 9 13 1 ..... R P Downey (7) 6  
2 5023P5 VICTOR'S BEACH (IRE) (9) (CD) M Halford 4 9 13 ..... S Foley 4  
3 1U2213 DANSEUR DE FEU (IRE) (18) (C) Kevin Prendergast 4 9 11 C D Hayes 2  
4 164266 SHABRA EMPEROR (IRE) (9) (C) P O Brady 5 9 11 P O'Brien 1

**BETTING:** 9-4 Mansuri, 3-1 Walk Right Back, 4-1 Elusive Laurence, 5-1 Refusetolisten, 8-1 Chief Suspect, 14-1 Law Enforcer, 16-1 Acroleina, 25-1 Keep On Walking.

**5.15**

### CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL DUNDALK

**HANDICAP (50-70). £7,500 added 3YO PLUS 1m Penalty Value EUR6200.**

1 242530 THE BLACK DEVIL (IRE) (10) (CD) G Keane 9 13 1 ..... R P Downey (7) 6  
2 5023P5 VICTOR'S BEACH (IRE) (9) (CD) M Halford 4 9 13 ..... S Foley 4  
3 1U2213 DANSEUR DE FEU (IRE) (18) (C) Kevin Prendergast 4 9 11 C D Hayes 2  
4 164266 SHABRA EMPEROR (IRE) (9) (C) P O Brady 5 9 11 P O'Brien 1

**BETTING:** 9-2 Zalty, 5-1 Walk Right Back, 4-1 Elusive Laurence, 5-1 Refusetolisten, 8-1 Chief Suspect, 14-1 Law Enforcer, 16-1 Acroleina, 25-1 Keep On Walking.

**4.20**

### CGC EVENTS FOR CONFERENCE & BANQUETING HANDICAP (CLASS 3).

**£15,000 added 3YO only 1m**

1 2-0603 ONSLINE ALEXANDER (IRE) (15) K Ryan 3 8 12 ..... G Lee 13  
2 1U2213 PENNY DROPS (50) (D) W Haggas 3 8 12 ..... P Hanagan 3  
3 4515 RELATION ALEXANDER (IRE) (31) P D'Arcy 3 8 12 ..... P Mulrennan 7

**BETTING:** 7-2 Ladies Are Forever, 6-1 Spinaltrix, 7-1 Penny Drops, Hoodna, 8-1 Valonia, 10-1 Along Again, Online Alexander, Bondesire, 12-1 others.

**4.50**

### TOTEPOOL SUPPORTING THE

**SPORT YOU LOVE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 4). £8,000 added 3YO PLUS 1m**

1 1-0421 OXANA (29) W Haggas 9 7 ..... S De Sousa 5  
2 142126 FLYCATCHER (IRE) (23) (D) R Fahey 9 0 ..... G Chaloner (3) 6  
3 4515 LOCKHART (IRE) (8) (CD) M Johnston 8 12 ..... F Norton 4  
4 303400 MR MATTHEWS (IRE) (67) K Burke 8 8 ..... B A Curtis 3  
5 504211 IMSHIVALLA (IRE) (11) (CD) R Fahey 8 6 ..... P Hanagan 1  
6 -25434 CASTLE COMBE (IRE) (17) (D) M Tregoning 8 5 ..... M Dwyer 2

**BETTING:** 9-4 Oxana, 3-1 Imshivalla, 7-2 Flycatcher, 6-1 Lockhart, 7-1 Castle Combe, 12-1 Mr Matthews.

**5.20**

### NOVA DISPLAY HANDICAP (CLASS 5).

**£6,000 added 3YO PLUS 6f**

1 -01331 POYLE Vinnie (11) (C) M Appleby 4 10 0 ..... A Mullen 8  
2 532461 SOLAR SPIRIT (IRE) (12) (CD) Miss T Waggett 9 10 0 ..... Winston 1

**BETTING:** 13-8 Hesbaan, 9-4 Flawless Pink, 7-2 Tasmanian, 6-1 Dancin Alpha, 16-1 Remembrance Day, 50-1 Mr Gatsby, Soviet Union, 66-1 Dapper Too.

**5.15**

### ST. JOHN AMBULANCE HANDICAP (CLASS 5). £6,000 added 3YO PLUS 2m

**£2,000 added 3YO only 5f**

1 013611 PRECISION STRIKE (10) R C Guest 4 10 2 D T Da Silva (5) 1  
2 000-4 AIR SQUADRON (22) R Beckett 4 9 10 ..... S De Sousa 5  
3 5120-4 KODICIL (IRE) (16) C M Walford 6 9 9 ..... P Aspell 3  
4 -54433 BEAT THE SHOWER (6) (B/P) N Piven 8 9 0 ..... R Winston 6  
5 0-2334 JAWABA (IRE) (19) C P Kirby 8 10 8 ..... J Hayes (3) 2  
6 -3050 KAIZEN FACTOR (17) M Hamond 3 8 0 ..... P Mathers 4

**BETTING:** 11-8 Air Squadron, 5-2 Precision Strike, 4-1 Beat The Shower, 8-1 Jawaba, 12-1 Kodicil, 33-1 Kaizen Factor.

**3.45**

### EBF STALLIONS HIGHFIELD FARM

**FLYING FILLIES' STAKES (LISTED) (CLASS 1). £50,000 added 3YO PLUS 6f**

1 651010 LADIES ARE FOREVER (16) (D) G Oldroyd 6 9 8D Tudhope 9  
2 144-10 ATHENIAN (IRE) (22) (D) Sir M Prescott 5 9 1 ..... C Catlin 5  
3 216204 BONDESIRE (8) (D) O Meara 9 4 1 ..... S James 6  
4 0-2230 HOODNA (IRE) (15) (D) S Bin Surroo 4 9 1 ..... S De Sousa 8  
5 3-4400 MASARAH (IRE) (40) (D) C Brittain 4 9 1 ..... F Norton 4  
6 401104 MU'AJIZA (15) P Midgley 4 9 1 ..... R Winston 1  
7 523-26 SPINATRIX (85) (CD) M Dods 6 9 1 ..... C Beasley 10  
8 213-20 ALONG AGAIN (IRE) (50) (D) Sir M Stoute 3 8 12 W Kelly 12

**BETTING:** 9-4 Oxana, 3-1 Imshivalla, 7-2 Flycatcher, 6-1 Lockhart, 7-1 Castle Combe, 12-1 Mr Matthews.

**4.50**

### TOTEPOOL SUPPORTING THE

**SPORT YOU LOVE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 4). £8,000 added 3YO PLUS 1m**

1 426 DANCIN ALPHA (12) G Swinburn 3 9 5 ..... R Winston 7  
2 4-4222 HESBAAN (IRE) (24) M Tregoning 3 9 5 ..... P Hanagan 5  
3 3 0 DAPPER TOO (122) J Davies 3 9 5 ..... G Lee 6

**BETTING:** 9-2 Poyle Vinnie, 8-1 Solar Spirit, 7-1 We'll Do Again, Le Laitier, 8-1 Thatcherite, Diamond Blue, 10-1 Lothair, 12-1 Milly's Secret, Disclosure, 14-1 others.

**5.05**

### Sunday's runners

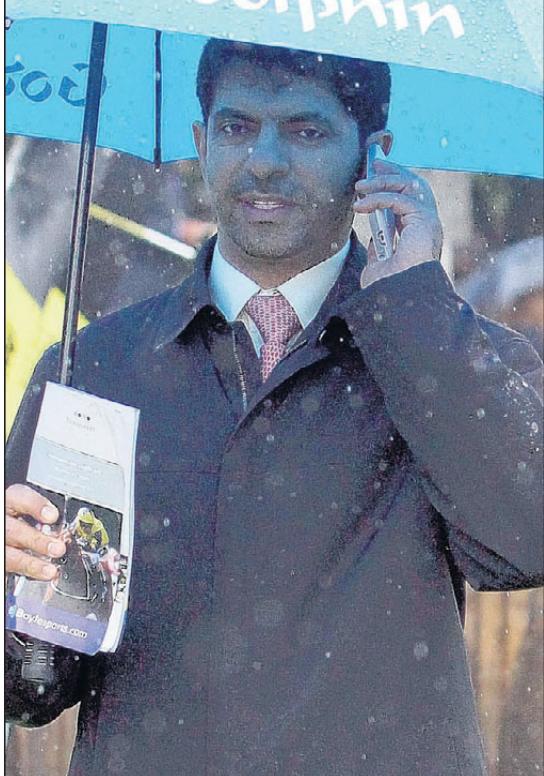
**THE DAILY ECHO**

1 0-0410 ISDAAL (F20) K Morgan 7 10 10 ..... A Wedge  
2 0-436-5 OVILIA (32

# Horse Racing



# HOOD-WINK THE BOOKIES



**BIG CHANCE:** Trainer Saeed bin Suroor has a cracking chance of a winner at Pontefract tomorrow.

## HOODNA can deservedly get off the mark for the season in the EBF Highfield Farm Flying Fillies' Stakes at Pontefract.

Saeed bin Suroor's Godolphin filly was a winner as a juvenile and at three and although she has so far failed to find the number one spot as a four-year-old, there is little doubt she has raised her game judged on some excellent efforts in defeat.

Hoodna, who appears to have benefited from being fitted with a hood, kicked off her campaign with a close second on Newmarket's July Course at the end of May and although she was beaten at odds-on next time at the same venue, she turned in another decent performance to fill the runner-up spot again.

It is perhaps no coincidence that her best run to date came when there was some ease in the ground as she ran a stormer to finish third in the ultra-competitive Bunbury Cup.

She failed to reward each-way support when seventh in the 32Red (Stewards') Cup at Glorious Goodwood, but ground conditions were again on the quick side and she was never able to get on an even keel over the fast six furlongs.

Hoodna is set to encounter an easier surface on her visit to Yorkshire this weekend and is bound to make her presence felt.

The Clive Cox-trained Robin Park shaped with plenty of promise on her Ffos Las debut and gets the nod in the opening British Stallion Studs EBF Trevor Woods Memorial Maiden

## SELECTIONS

**DUNDALK:** 2.40 Chiclet, 3.10 Toscanini, 3.40 Zalty, 4.15 Foolish Ways, 4.45 Mansuri, 5.15 The Dancing Lord, 5.45 Panama Hat.

**PONTEFRACT:** 2.15 Robin Park, 2.45 Alex Vino, 3.15 Jawaab, 3.45 HOODNA (NAP), 4.20 Lockhart, 4.50 Flawless Pink, 5.20 Diamond Blue.

**SOUTHWELL:** 2.00 Local Present, 2.30 Azza, 3.00 Tindaro, 3.30 Minella Fiveo, 4.05 Alalm, 4.35 My Betty, 5.05 Moon Melody.

**TRAMORE:** 2.20 Marty's Magic, 2.50 Alleo, 3.20 Goal, 3.50 Tempest Missile, 4.25 Royal Chief, 4.55 Zane Grey, 5.25 Definite Ruby.

**DOUBLE:** Hoodna and Azza.

Stakes. The daughter of Invincible Spirit appeared none too keen to enter the stalls before eventually going in and was slowly away when the gates opened.

She was predictably unable to keep tabs on 1-10 favourite Judicial, who had previously chased home exciting juvenile Strath Burn, but she finished off her race to good effect to finish second and time may tell it was a fair effort.

Her reluctance to load is an obvious concern, but that can be put down to inexperience at this stage and if she behaves herself she has enough talent to get off the mark.

Alex Vino looks banker material in the totepool Home Of Pool Betting Handicap.

The High Chaparral colt build on a debut third at Newmarket by signing off his juvenile year with victory at Lingfield and given Sir Michael Stoute's runners generally improve for a run, his comeback fourth at Leicester was perfectly respectable.

The winner, Montaly, has upheld the form well since and Alex Vino

did his bit with a stylish display at Sandown last time, confirming he remains firmly on the upgrade.

A 6lb rise seems fair enough and he should prove a tough nut to crack, with the step up to a mile and a half a help rather than a hindrance.

Southwell keeps the flag flying for the National Hunt game, with Azza the best bet of the afternoon in the Turnbull Home Improvement Novices' Chase.

The four-year-old showed some quality form during her debut season over hurdles in Britain and made a winning start to her fencing career with a generally impressive round of jumping at Uttoxeter last month.

As she receives age and sex allowances, it is no surprise trainer David Pipe is keen to keep her on the go and she looks the sort capable of running up a sequence at this time of year before the better novices emerge.

The irrepressible Tony McCoy is closing in on his fastest ever century and can take a step closer aboard My Betty in the A & V Squires Plant Mares' Novices' Hurdle.

Peter Croke's Irish raider has found life tough in his homeland, but hinted her turn was not far away when third at Uttoxeter in early July and she did not see another rival as she made all the running under McCoy at this track a couple of weeks later.

The return to two miles is not expected to be a major issue and she ought to follow up under a penalty in what is a moderate affair.

## TRAMORE

**Going:** Good  
**2.20 FAMILY FUN AFTERNOON AT TRAMORE RACES MAIDEN HURDLE.** £6,667 added 4 to 5YO 2m Penalty Value EUR5500.

1 5-015 GUSTY ROCKY (IRE) (18) D P J Flynn 5 11 12 .D N Russell  
 2 000- LANDAU (IRE) (14) G Elliott 4 11 7 .....D Condon  
 3 0/160 SOTILLA (IRE) (34) Paul Nolan 5 11 5 .....M P Walsh  
 4 IMRITE (IRE) (F35) D Bunyan 5 11 4 .....S E Butter (5)  
 5 26-2 MARTY'S MAGIC (IRE) (F11) D K Weld 5 11 4 ..P Townsend  
 6 SILVER PROMISE (IRE) Muredach Kelly 5 11 4 ..P Corbett (5)  
 7 00P- TAMAM NAMOOSIE (IRE) (153) P Breen 5 11 4 ..P F Mangan  
 8 50 DAFT DAVE (IRE) (26) Eoin Doyle 4 11 2 ..Mr R M Cody (7)  
 9 P-000 LAR NA PAIRCE (IRE) (12) Augustine Leahy 4 11 2 ....B T O'Connell  
 10 0 MANIBUS (IRE) (73) A J McNamara 4 11 2 ..A J McNamara  
 11 1 COLLEN BEAG (IRE) (24) D M O'Brien 4 11 0P D Kennedy (5)  
 12 PP-065 JESSE'S OSCAR (IRE) (10) D Buds 5 10 11 ..J J Burke (5)  
 13 0 OLYMPIC QUEEN (IRE) (10) J Finn 4 10 9 ..S Shortall (7)

**BETTING:** 6-4 Marty's Magic, 4-1 Gusty Rocky, 5-1 Landau, 10-1 Jesse's Oscar, Sotilla, Collen Beag, 25-1 Silver Promise, Manibus, Daft Dave, 33-1 others.

**2.50 FRANK GILLANE MEMORIAL MAIDEN HURDLE.** £7,292 added 6YO PLUS 2m Penalty Value EUR6000.

1 00-050 B L SWAGGER (IRE) (23) D Ms Margaret Mullins 6 11 12D E Mullins  
 2 300-4 COOLFIGHTER (GER) (F3) N Dooly 6 11 12 ....J L Cullen  
 3 3201-0 DAINTY DIVA (IRE) (23) D M Coffey 6 11 5 ....S Shortall (7)  
 4 3-P ALLIEO (GER) (F19) W P Mullins 6 11 4 .....P Townsend  
 5 /OP-00 CHAKISTO (IRE) (12) Eoin Doyle 6 11 4 .....M J Ferris  
 6 U400-4 JOSHELLA (IRE) (24) David Kelly 6 11 4 ..S W Flanagan  
 7 4-6250 OSCAR VESPASIAN (IRE) (20) J Quigley 6 11 4 J J Burke (5)  
 8 /0005- TONIUS (IRE) (12) S Sleavin 6 11 4 .....P D Kennedy (5)  
 9 P- WEXFORD BRIDGE (IRE) (287) G M Doyle 8 11 4 ..M Darcy  
 10 0-000 WILDE 'N WIDE (IRE) (42) A J McNamara 6 11 4 .....A J McNamara  
 11 00- LEITRIM ROSE (IRE) (276) F Flood 6 10 11D Jj McGarvey (5)

**BETTING:** 3-1 Allieo, 9-2 Coolfighter, 6-1 Oscar Vespasian, Tonius, 13-2 B L Swagger, 12-1 Josella, Dainty Diva, 14-1 Chakisto, Wexford Bridge, 16-1 others.

**3.20**

**RICHARD POWER PRIVATE CLIENT BETTING HANDICAP HURDLE.** £13,750 added 4YO PLUS 2m Penalty Value EUR11400.

1 /13P-1  
 2 P65-52  
 3 100-20  
 4 0211-0  
 5 1355-0  
 6 2F-605  
 7 02-P44

**BETTING:** 2-1 The Ring Is King, 4-1 Dazzling Susie, 5-1 Goal, 13-2 Decade Player, Roman Numerals, 7-1 King High, 12-1 Fairy Court.

**3.50**

**CHIA BIA (Q.R.) MAIDEN HURDLE.** £7,292 added 4YO PLUS 2m 5f Penalty Value EUR6000.

1 64-60F  
 2 021  
 3 P113P-  
 4 /3-P50  
 5 06

**BETTING:** 6-4 Chia Bia, 4-1 Dazzling Susie, 5-1 Goal, 13-2 Decade Player, Roman Numerals, 7-1 King High, 12-1 Fairy Court.

**CORR POINT (IRE)** (33) C A Murphy 7 11 12 Mr B O'Neill (3)  
**TEMPEST MISSILE (IRE)** (30) W P Mullins 5 11 5 ..Mr P W Mullins

**BUSTER DAN DAN (IRE)** (133) Michael O'Connor 6 11 4Mr M J O'Connor

**DR BEAUJOLAIS (IRE)** (36) E J O'Grady 8 11 4 Mr D Collins

**DUSHYDANCER (IRE)** (57) J P Brennan 5 11 4 Mr J J Slevin

**JUST NEED LUCK (IRE)** (68) J M Burke 5 11 4 Mr D Skehan

**KILLABRAHER CROSS (IRE)** (84) Michael Winters 7 11 4Mr D L Quigley (5)

**KNOCKRAHA PRINCE (IRE)** (28) C P O'Connor 6 11 4 ..Mr C Motherway (3)

**MAGICAL MOON (8) (BF)** M Hourigan 5 11 4 Mr D O'Connor

**SALTMINES BLACKIE (IRE)** (424) H de Bromhead 6 11 4Mr P Power (7)

**BRITE SPARK (IRE)** (32) Anthony Moloney 9 10 11 ..Mr R Barron (7)

**FIORD COTTAGE (IRE)** (13) Robert Murphy 7 10 11Mr R Kiely

**INDIAN FAIRY (IRE)** (34) (BF) Eoin Doyle 6 10 11 ..Mr R Quinlan (5)

**PALE FACE (IRE)** (12) D T Hughes 4 10 8Miss A B O'Connor

**BETTING:** 2-1 Tempest Missile, 11-4 Magical Moon, 9-2 Indian Fairy, 10-1 Corr Point, Killabraher Cross, Flord Cottage, 12-1 Saltmines Blackie, 14-1 Pale Face, 16-1 others.

**4.25**

**COMERAGH VETERINARY HANDICAP HURDLE (80-102).** £7,708 added 4YO PLUS 2m 5f Penalty Value EUR6400.

1 F04-P5  
 2 05061R  
 3 56-60F  
 4 25P-54  
 5 0-1240  
 6 153002

**BETTING:** 2-1 Comeragh Veterinary, 4-1 Hackets Folly, 5-1 Goal, 7-1 Horses, 8-1 Pale Face, 9-1 Pale Face, 10-1 Pale Face, 11-1 Pale Face, 12-1 Pale Face, 13-1 Pale Face, 14-1 Pale Face, 15-1 Pale Face, 16-1 Pale Face.

**GRIESENAU (IRE)** (23) (D) L Byrne 8 11 12 Mr P O'Sullivan

**UP THE HILL (IRE)** (F3) J W Nicholson 6 11 12 ..K Sexton (5)

**YOU CAN'T CATCH ME (IRE)** (13) K Purcell 5 11 12 ..L P Dempsey (7)

**HACKETS FOLLY (IRE)** (44) (BF) William P Murphy 6 11 10 S W Flanagan

**ROYAL CHIEF (IRE)** (18) (D) Eoin Doyle 5 11 10 J Burke (5)

**COLDSTONESBOER (IRE)** (3) (C) D J Finn 8 11 95 Shortall (7)

**DUSTY TRAIL (IRE)** (F3) (C) Eoin Doyle 10 11 8 ..M J Ferris

**BEST OF BOCELLI (IRE)** (148) Peter Croke 11 11 5 ..R C Colgan

**KEY ACCOUNT (IRE)** (23) L Byrne 6 11 5 Jody McGarvey (5)

**STRAIN OF FAME (IRE)** (30) S O'Farrell 8 11 2 ..Miss K O'Farrell (7)

**CUT THE CORNER (IRE)** (13) M Hourigan 6 11 11 ..A P Heskin

**ICELIP (IRE)** (44) D O'Brien 6 11 11 ..L Cullen

**JERUSALEM BELLS (IRE)** (10) P Fenton 5 10 12 ..B T O'Connell

**PIERLOW (IRE)** (36) H de Bromhead 5 10 12 ..A E Lynch

**THE BOLD BECKY (IRE)** (24) (CD) T J Nagle Jr 6 10 9 ..M Darcy

**ALL HONOURS (IRE)** (55) (CD) P J Rothwell 8 10 8 ..P Townend

**FAST EXIT (IRE)** (65) Eoin Doyle 7 10 8 ..RESERVE

**COME ON YOU (IRE)** (54) D M O'Brien 6 10 6 ..RESERVE

**WORREL CREEK (IRE)** (228) P J Rothwell 8 10 5 ..RESERVE

**BETTING:** 5-1 The Bold Becky, 13-3 Strain Of Fame, 7-1 Key Account, Royal Chief, 8-1 Pierlow, 10-1 Hackets Folly, Jerusalems Bells, 12-1 Dusty Trail, Up The Hill, 14-1 others.

**4.55**

**HEINZ POLLMEIER MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (0-109).** £9,167

## Sunday's runners

**added 4YO PLUS 2m Penalty Value EUR7600.**

**AKINSPIRIT (IRE)** (F9) (D) Michael Butler 10 11 12 ..K Sexton

**RAYDARI (FR)** (13) (D) R Sweeney 6 11 12 ..J J Burke (5)

**COOLHARBOUR BREEZE (IRE)** (96) (C) Miss B Murphy 9 11 (5)

**10S Shortall (7)**

**PADDY O DEE (14)** (D) P J Rothwell 9 11 8 ..A P Heskin

**RAISE HELL (IRE)** (12) (D) W P Mullins 7 11 8 ..P Townsend

**OLD SUPPORTER (IRE)** (12) P McCreary 9 11 5 ..B Hayes (3)

**ZANE GREY (IRE)** (57) (D)B H de Bromhead 7 11 5 ..A E Lynch

**TYNAGHS TROOPER (IRE)** (28) (D) P J Rothwell 8 10 12 ..B T O'Connell

**SWEET SYLVIA (IRE)** (13) (D) A Fogarty 9 11 10 ..P F Mangan

**LIKE THE DA (IRE)** (34) (D) A Fogarty 9 11 10 ..S Crim (7)

**BETTING:** 11-4 Zane Grey, 7-2 Old Supporter, 6-1 Sweet Sylvia, Raydari, 8-1 Akinspirit, 12-1 Raise Hell, Coolharbour Breeze, 14-1 Tynaghs Trooper, 16-1 others.

**5.25 TRAMORE AMUSEMENT & LEISURE PARK MARES BEGINNERS CHASE.** £8,125 added 4YO PLUS 2m 7f Penalty Value EUR6700.

**BADIN FHEILIM (IRE)** (13) Patrick Cronin 8 11 7 ..P A Gallagher (5)

**BELL'S CROSS (IRE)** (42) P Breen 7 11 7 ..P F Mangan

**DEFINITE RUBY (IRE)** (14) G Elliott 6 11 7 ..D Condon

**DOMINETTA VITALI (IRE)** (8) Eoin Doyle 8 11 7Mr H Dunnne

**GORTMORE EXPRESS (IRE)** (23) John O'Shaughnessy 7 11 7 ..J L Cullen

**LILY OF KILLARNEY (IRE)** (36) (D) C Bowe 6 11 7M P Walsh

**MISS EDEN (IRE)** (23) Michael Winters 6 11 7 ..M J Ferris

**MRS MAC VEALE (IRE)** (18) Robert Murphy 9 11 7 ..A J McNamara

**RAINBOW SALLY (IRE)** (23) R P O'Keeffe 9 11 7 ..Mr G L Murphy (7)

**ST MAXIME (IRE)** (64) E J O'Grady 6 11 7 ..D Russell

**SUNKI (IRE)** (23) D O'Herlihy 6 11 7 ..Roughan

**WAREEDS TUNE (IRE)** (32) J Staunton 7 11 7 B T O'Connell

**BETTING:** 15-8 Definite Ruby, 3-1 Mrs Mac Veale, 6-1 Dominetta Vitali, 7-1 Badin Fheilim, 12-1 Miss Eden, 14-1 Lily Of Killarney, 16-1 Rainbow Sally, 25-1 others.

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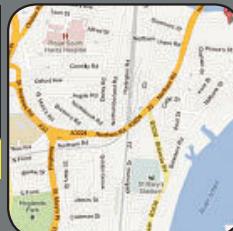
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2001 Swift Sundance, 5 berth, 3 seatbelts, rear kitchen, bike rack	£15,500	2003 Lunar Chateau 400 Touring Caravan, 4 berth end dinette,	£4,750
2005 Bessacarr E450 2 berths, fixed french bed, awning, towbar, bike rack	£17,950	2006 McLouis Lagan, LHD, 5 berths 6 belts, rev camera, TV, 33,488 miles	£24,750
2003 Autoroller P3 4 berths, 4 belts, french bed, bike rack	Coming Soon	2012 Roller Team 670, 2 berth 2 belts, gorgeous! Just 1300 miles	£36,500
Brand new AUTO Roller Team 685 low profile, 2-4 berth, 4 belts, Solar panel charging cream 'leather' upholstery, gorgeous	£44,500	2007 Burslner Aviano, A-Class 4 berth, 4 belts, Island Bed, lovely	£45,950
W REG Autosleepers, 4 berth Ravenna, 3 seatbelts, rear lounge	£15,950	2002 Mercedes Vito Campervan conversion, pop-up roof, sleeps 4	£37,750
2005 Ace Milano 5 berth, 4 belts, rear kitchen, overhead cab lovely van	£20,975	1997 Autoroller 772F 4 berths	Price now £15,050
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## Barclays Premier League

Arsenal	L	Crystal P	L
Leicester	2	Everton	2
Ulloa 22		McGeady 20	
Wood 86		Naismith 45	
HT 1-2		Att 31,603	
Man Utd	1	Swansea	2
Rooney 53		Ki 28	
HT 0-1		Sigurdsson 72	
Q.P.R.	0	Hull	1
HT 0-0		Chester 52	
Stoke	0	A. Villa	1
HT 0-0		Chester 52	
W.B.A.	2	Sunderland	2
Berahino 42 pen, 74		Cattermole 5	
HT 1-1		Larson 85	
West Ham	0	Tottenham Hotspur	1
HT 0-0		Dier 90	
		Att 34,977	

## SkyBet League One

Bristol C	2	Colchester	1
Wilshere 46		Moncur 9	
HT 0-1		Att 11,626	
Chesterfield	2	Rochdale	1
Hayes 39 pen, 76 pen		Henderson 90 pen	
HT 1-0		Att 5,662	
Coventry	1	Sheff Utd	0
Harris 78 og			
HT 0-0		Lita 57	
Crawley	1	Swindon	0
McLeod 51 pen			
HT 0-0		Att 2,279	
Crewe	1	Barnsley	2
Waters 22			
HT 1-0		Lit 57	
Doncaster	1	Port Vale	3
Bennett 74		Williamson 27	
HT 0-3		Pope 39	
Gillingham	2	Yeovil	0
Martin 35, Kedwell 55		Dickinson 41	
HT 1-0		Att 6,437	

## HOME AWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Swansea	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	3
A. Villa	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
Hull	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
Tottenham Hotspur	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
Everton	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	3
Leicester	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Sunderland	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	3
W.B.A.	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Arsenal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burnley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chelsea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crystal P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liverpool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Man City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAINTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Man Utd	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q.P.R.	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stoke	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Ham	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

## SkyBet Championship

Birmingham	1	Brighton	0
Thomas 49			
HT 0-0		Att 14,955	
Blackpool	1	Blackburn	2
Cywka 53		Gestede 26,47	
HT 0-1		Att 12,130	
Bolton	2	Nottm For	2
Mason 4		Assombalonga 27,35 pen	
Wheater 29			
HT 2-2		Att 15,753	
CHEERIES	1	Brentford	0
Stanislas 72			
HT 0-0		Att 10,114	
Cardiff	3	Huddersfield	1
Whittingham 28		Wallace 45	
Jones 35,56			
HT 2-1		Att 20,749	
Charlton	2	Wigan	1
Cousins 8			
Mousa 90		McManaman 22	
HT 1-1			
Fulham	0	Millwall	1
Woodford 12			
HT 0-1		Att 18,988	
Leeds Utd	1	Middlesbro	0
Sharp 88			
HT 0-0		Att 24,484	
Norwich	3	Watford	0
Johnson 32			
Grabban 59			
Tettey 61			
HT 1-0		Att 26,375	
Reading	1	Ipswich	0
Taylor 26			
HT 1-0		Att 17,198	
Rotherham	1	Wolves	0
Hall 76			
HT 0-0		Att 10,752	
Sheff Wed	0	Derby City	0
HT 0-0		Att 25,186	

## SkyBet League Two

Burton Albion	2	Dagenham	1
Kee 84 pen, 88		Cureton 18	
HT 0-1		Att 2,150	
Cheltenham	2	Acc Stanley	1
Harrison 34		Naismith 77	
Arthur 84			
HT 1-0		Att 2,340	
Hartlepool	0	Bury	2
HT 0-1		Nardiello 18	
Att 3,246		Rose 73	
Luton	0	AFC Wimbledon	1
Tubb 42			
HT 0-1		Att 9,101	
Mansfield	2	Acc Stanley	1
Tafazoli 39, Murray 88		Naismith 77	
HT 1-0			
Morecambe	3	Newport County	2
Ellison 58,63		Chapman 27	
Mullin 84		O Connor 29	
HT 0-2		Att 1,506	
Plymouth	3	Exeter	0
Harvey 14			
Reid 36, Nelson 83			
HT 2-0		Att 11,418	
POMPEY	2	Cambridge	1
Taylor 34		Appiah 69	
Dunn 66 og			
HT 1-0		Att 16,671	
Shrewsbury	2	Tranmere	1
Mangan 90		Bell-Bagge 42	
Demetriou 90			
HT 0-1		Att 5,249	
Southend	2	Stevenage	0
Weston 9			
HT 2-0		Att 5,397	
Wycombe	3	Carlisle	1
Pierre 55		Potts 57	
Hayes 77 pen			
HT 0-0		Att 3,121	
York	1	Northmpn	1
Straker 67		Richards 90	
HT 0-0		Att 3,448	

## HOME AWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
CHERRIES	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	0	6
Millwall	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	6	0
Cardiff	2	1	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	1	4	1
Nottm For	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	2	4	1
Blackburn	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	4	1
Charlton	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	4	1	1
Reading	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	2	4	1
Derby City	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	1
Sheff Wed	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	1	0
Norwich	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	3	1
Middlesbro	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	3	1
Watford	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
Ipswich	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Rotherham	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	0
Wolves	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	0
Birmingham	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	3	0
Leeds Utd	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	3	0
Brentford	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Bolton	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	3	1	0
Fulham	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0
Brighton	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Blackpool	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
Huddersf	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0



FIRST GOAL: Swansea City's Ki Sung-yueng celebrates scoring the first goal of the new Premier League campaign in his side's clash with Manchester United earlier today.

## Scottish Premiership

Aberdeen	P	St Mirren	P
Postponed - new date to be confirmed.			
Celtic	6	Dundee Utd	1
Denayer 4			
POMPEY	2	Cambridge	1
Taylor 34		Appiah 69	
Dunfermline	1	Tranmere	2
HT 0-1		Nardiello 18	
HT 1-0		Att 16,671	
Shrewsbury	2	Tranmere	1
Mangan 90		Bell-Bagge 42	
Demetriou 90			
HT 0-1		Att 5,249	
Southend	2	Stevenage	0
Weston 9			
HT 2-0		Att 5,397	
Wycombe	3	Carlisle	1
Pierre 55		Potts 57	
Hayes 77 pen			
HT 0-0		Att 3,121	
York	1	Northmpn	1
Straker 67		Richards 90	
HT 0-0			